

THE TIMES Tomorrow

After Warnock
Genetic manipulation is
a threat to the family,
argues the Chief Rabbi



Enemies within
Woodrow Wyatt on the
power of party rebels in
Parliament

A great act
The tradition of amateur
drama, from the
inspiration to the ovation

Going in for the kill
The Wallabies, with the
grand slam behind them,
now aim to humble the
Barbarians

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio compe-
tition prize of £2,000 was won
yesterday by Mrs Judith Paul,
who lives in Horsham, West
Sussex. Portfolio list, page 22;
how to play, information
service, back page.

Beatles win legal battle with EMI

The Beatles have won their
High Court dispute with EMI
and may receive up to £4
million in underpaid royalties
and interest from some of their
earliest songs. Page 3

NHS chief

The chairman of the newly
created National Health Service
management board is to be Mr
Victor Page, at present chair-
man of the Port of London
Authority. Page 2

M40 decision

Work on extending the M40
will begin in 1987, the Govern-
ment announced. But environ-
mental doubts remain over 11
miles of the route. Page 2



Kasparov win

Gary Kasparov, challenger in
the Moscow world chess cham-
pionship, won his first game
yesterday when the titleholder,
Anatoly Karpov, phoned
through his resignation in the
32nd game after an overnight
adjournment. Page 7

President held

President Haddada of
Mauritania, overthrown in his
absence on Wednesday, flew
home to Nouakchott and was
immediately arrested.

Britain accused

A second Briton, Alan Rus-
sell, a Suffolk teacher, appeared
in a Libyan court, to face five
charges, one security-related.
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from Sir James Gowans, FRSC;
North London Polytechnic,
from Lady Cox and others;
embryo research, from Dr R.
Newell.
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leak; Philip Howard runs
McNeddar to earth; Spectrum:
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Sir William McKie, Graft
Ehrlich.
Metropolitan counties
As the Local Government Bill
to abolish the GLC passes
through Parliament, a Special
Report examines the role of the
metropolitan counties, which
also face abolition.

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Thatcher praises record to rekindle backbench support

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher set out last night to persuade her divided backbench supporters that despite current troubles the Government was out-performing the previous Conservative administration elected in 1979.

Output, inflation, profits and productivity were all greatly improved by comparison with the situation after the first 18 months of her first term as Prime Minister. Unemployment was not rising so fast.

In her twice-yearly speech to the Conservative 1922 Committee, delivered privately in a Westminster committee room, Mrs Thatcher agreed with the committee's newly elected chairman, Mr Stanley Onslow, that communications between ministers and other ranks in the party might well be improved. She came near to asking for unity when wishing her followers a Happy Christmas and "a United New Year".

Mr Onslow, presiding for the first time, welcomed the Prime Minister by saying that good communications were essential to effective government - communications between an MP and his constituency supporters and equally between a government and its backbenchers. The committee was most anxious to maintain the best possible exchange of ideas at all levels and to improve these exchanges in anyway possible, he said.

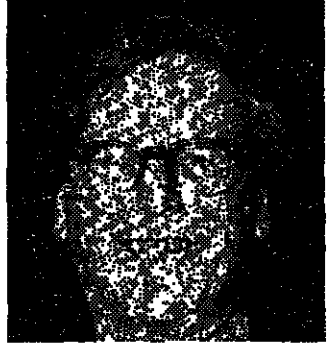
with constitutional Bills on the Commons floor.

She said nothing about the topics which in recent weeks have roused Conservative MPs against their leaders - student grant, overseas aid, the Local Government Bill to abolish the Greater London Council and Metropolitan county councils. But she went quickly to the argument which has gripped the party about the determination of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the Prime Minister's backing, to make room for cuts in direct personal taxation in the next budget.

Higher tax was no part of Conservative philosophy, she said. It killed enterprise and initiative. There was a need to raise tax thresholds on grounds of equity. There was a need to raise tax thresholds on grounds of equity, since 12 million tax payers were earning £8,000 a year or less, and six million less than £5,000.

A man and wife with two children could be better off without work, unless their earnings came to £130 a week. "They cannot look to a Socialist Government, they look to us to do more for them."

Mrs Thatcher addressed the argument put even by some of her ministers that more public investment would be the best way of reducing unemployment.



Mr Onslow

Ministers play down MPs' revolt over GLC

By Anthony Bevis and Hugh Clayton

Disappointed senior ministers expect the House of Lords to give the controversial Local Government Bill a much rougher ride as a result of a collapse in the Government's majority early yesterday morning.

In a key vote on a Tory backbench amendment to replace the GLC with another directly-elected authority after a Commons select committee inquiry, the Government beat the coalition of opponents by 233 votes to 210, a record low majority of 23.

Embarrassed ministers tried to play down the extent of the backbench rebellion yesterday saying that there had been larger revolts since last year's election. It was said that 17 Tories had voted against the Government, a dozen had deliberately abstained and two had acted as tellers for the rebels.

Nevertheless, the collapse of the majority was a disappointment for Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, and although the whips refused to give any figures for those absent without leave it is thought that as many as 30 had been unaccounted for on the night.

The fact remains that hostile peers will seize the narrowness of the Government majority - down from an opposition to the abolition of a directly-elected authority for London.

That hazard was recognized last night by ministers, if only because the House of Lords has established a stringent resistance to rubber-stamping measures which have only survived the Commons because of the Government's landslide majority.

London should have a directly-elected council of no more than 40 members after the abolition of the GLC, Mr Alan Greenways, leader of the GLC's Conservative minority, said yesterday. The new council should have a Londonwide strategic role in planning, the arts and emergency services with a much smaller staff and budget than the GLC.

He made it clear at county hall that Tories there wanted

TUC seeks pit peace amid scepticism

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The latest peace initiative in the 40-weeks old pit strike gets under way this morning amid mounting scepticism among the key parties to the dispute.

Leaders of the Trades Union Congress will urge Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to authorize the National Coal Board to negotiate a new Plan for Coal with the National Union of Mine-workers to bring up to date the 1974 programme for the industry.

The "elder statesmen" of the Labour movement regard this as the most promising avenue towards a settlement of the strike, but their optimism is not wholly shared by the principal combatants.

Mr Ian McGregor, chairman of the Coal Board, said yesterday: "I am not a party to discussions but I doubt if they will lead to anything. But there has got to be something new to say and Mr Scargill (Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM President) keeps on repeating the standard formula. I have not seen or heard anything which makes me think they have got anything new to offer."

Mr MacGregor's comments came after a meeting of the union's national executive committee in Sheffield which gave a unanimous but cautious welcome to the TUC initiative.

Mr Peter Heathfield, general Secretary of the union, said: "In December 1984, we must question the relevance of the declaration on March 6 by the National Coal Board to close 20 pits in the present financial year, which expires in less than four months' time. It seems to us no longer relevant and we hope that they could accept this."

The union insists that its change in bargaining strategy towards acceptance that the coal board should "not proceed with" the proposal to shut down four million tonnes of capacity rather than "completely withdraw this plan is a genuine concession. But up to now it has been regarded by the coal board as no more than a cosmetic shift."

Mr Michael McGahey, vice-president of the union, who chaired yesterday's executive meeting in the absence of Mr Scargill, who was answering a charge of obstruction at Rotherham Magistrates' Court, said: "We welcome the TUC's decision to take this initiative. We hope it is fruitful."

The miners' leaders expect to have talks with the TUC's

Continued on back page, col 1

ICI to pay \$750m for US chemicals company

ICI is to pay \$370 million (£625 million) in cash for Beatrice Chemicals, an American company which is worth \$155 million, David Young, Energy Correspondent, writes.

Beatrice is one of the leading specialty chemical companies in the world and last year made profits of \$63 million on turnover of \$440 million. The acquisition is expected to be completed in the first quarter of next year.

Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, said yesterday that the acquisition would put ICI

among the world leaders in high growth advanced materials; further the development of its international specialty chemical business and increase the spread of the company's operations in the US.

Beatrice is forecast to make pre-tax profits of \$75 million this year on a turnover of \$480 million. It specializes in making high-performance polymers for paints and surface coatings.

ICI, whose shares rose 12p to 682p on the takeover news, recently paid £15.7 million for Coo Laboratories of Chicago.



Back to work: Mr John Wakeham, the Government Chief Whip, leaving his office in Downing St yesterday for the Commons where he returned to his seat two months and a day after he was severely injured in the IRA bomb attack on the Cabinet in the Grand Hotel, Brighton.

At about 3.10 pm, five minutes before Prime Minister's question time, Mr Wakeham entered the Commons chamber from the Members' Lobby on crutches, and made his way steadily, and unassisted, to his seat at the end of the Government front-bench.

Conservative MPs, and the majority of the Opposition, stood, cheered and waved their order papers to salute the bravery of the man who lost his wife in the blast. He was also welcomed by deputy leader Roy Hattersley.

Mr Hattersley told Mr Wakeham that his presence personified the triumph of democracy over terrorism. (Photograph: Bill Warren/Parliament, page 4)

Police may act over BT stags

By Allison Eadie

Organized groups of would-be stags, who put in hundreds of applications for shares in British Telecom, have had cheques worth £250,000 cashed, although they have received no shares. They may also face fraud charges.

The Department of Trade and Industry has called in the police on a few cases of multiple application. The BT prospectus strictly stipulated one share application per person.

Fewer than 10 groups have been uncovered, although the number of individuals is not known. The application forms were often filled in with false names. The £250,000 is now in a special account at the Bank of England, but a spokesman for the DoTI said it would be paid back to the applicants eventually.

Several of the multiple applicants, seeing their cheques had been cashed and thinking they had been allocated shares, did the classical stag action - they sold in the stockmarket to make a quick killing, before waiting for the allocation letter to arrive. They discovered when allocation letters were posted on Monday that they have no shares and will have to buy back the shares they have sold in a steadily rising market.

Kleinwort, Benson, the merchant bank handling the issue, and the accounting firm Peat Marwick Mitchell had devised a system for weeding out multiple applications. Smaller scale multiples were simply thrown out, but a decision was taken to cash the cheques of organized groups who were trying to cheat the system in a big way.

Continued on back page, col 6

US judge refuses to extradite IRA killer

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A United States federal judge yesterday rejected a British request to extradite a convicted IRA murderer, ruling that the killing was a political act exempt from the US-British extradition treaty.

John Patrick Thomas, Doherty escaped from prison in Belfast in June 1981, two days before a judge found him guilty of murder, attempted murder, possession of illegal weapons and membership of the proscribed IRA.

District Judge John Sprizzo, ruling in New York, said: "The facts of this case present the assertion of the political-offence exception (of the extradition treaty) in its most classic form." The ruling means that Doherty will be allowed to remain in America, at least for now.

It is the third time that extradition of IRA men has been rejected by American courts. In August 1981 a New York court refused to extradite Desmond Mackin, who was wanted in connection with the attempted murder of British soldier in Belfast in 1978. He was subsequently deported to the Irish Republic because he was an illegal immigrant.

In May 1979 a California court refused to extradite Peter McManus, who was wanted in connection with an attempted murder. British authorities alleged he had admitted involvement in the bombing of a British Army target in Ripon, Yorkshire, in 1974, and also in an attack on Palace Barracks, Belfast, in 1972.

In the latest case, Doherty admitted that he was among a group of IRA gunmen who took over a Belfast house on May 2, 1980, planning to ambush a British Army convoy. The house was approached three or four hours later by five members of the Army's Special Air Service. Shots were exchanged. Killing Captain Herbert Richard Westmacott of the SAS, Doherty was captured.

The judge ruled: "The death of Captain Westmacott, while a most tragic event, occurred in the context of an attempted ambush of a British Army patrol. It was the British Army's response to that action that gave rise to Captain Westmacott's death."

Continued on back page, col 6

Pension hint by cautious Lawson

By Our Political Editor

Mr Nigel Lawson said yesterday that there was no need for people to retire prematurely before the Budget because of concern that they would be disadvantaged by tax changes if they retired after it.

This form of words was extracted from him in the Commons by Mr Roy Hattersley after earlier answers had failed to satisfy MPs' demand that tax-free lump sums, taken in lieu of pension on retirement, would become liable to tax.

The Chancellor began with a formula apparently designed to reassure the pensions industry and people approaching retirement. Asked about rumours that lump sums would be taxed, he said that no Chancellor could confirm or deny rumours about the contents of his next Budget. "But I can assure the House that there is no need for anyone to retire early on account of such rumours."

MPs pressed him to say if pensions would be affected by a change in the tax treatment of contributions or of investment fund income. Mr Lawson was unwilling to go further.

Mr Robert McCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said it would help if he could say that any change in the tax situation would apply only to membership of pension schemes which began after his Budget was presented. Mr Lawson would not say.

Mr Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing, welcomed his condemnation of retrospective, and asked: "Would it not be retrospective if changes were made in future taxation of lump sum pensions with relation to contributions which have been made in the past?"

Mr Lawson said he was not sure quite what Mr Higgins meant, but he thought the answer was "yes".

Mr Hattersley said that what caused the uncertainty was the fear, not of retrospective, but that new regulations would be applied to the period after the budget. The Chancellor should end the uncertainty.

Dr Donagh McDonald, a Labour Treasury spokesman, said that Mr Lawson's prevarication had served to create more insecurity. Parliament, page 4

MEPs reject EEC budget

Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday threw out the £15,500 million EEC budget for next year by 319 votes to five with 16 abstentions (writes Ian Murray).

This means that the new European Commission will take over without a budget at a time when costs are rising and difficult negotiations to bring Spain and Portugal into the community should be nearing an end.

MEPs explained that they could not pass the budget because it only provided funds for the first ten months of the year. They were not prepared to accept an assurance from member states that extra money would be agreed before October.

Until a new budget, which satisfies the parliament, is put forward, the community will have to survive on monthly payments roughly equivalent to the amount spent this year. Budget thrown out, page 6

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Rising profits send boardroom salaries soaring

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

Britain's boardroom salaries, boosted by long-awaited increases in industrial profitability, are outstripping nearly every other wage rate in the economy, and rose in the past year by almost 11 per cent.

A survey of 5,500 directors published today by the Institute of Directors and Reward Regional Surveys, shows that the average director earns £22,500 basic salary and total pay of £25,000, although some earned nearly £90,000. In addition, he will have a company car, most likely a Rover, and the usual fringe benefits of pension, life insurance and private health insurance.

DIRECTORS' PAY		
	TOP 10%	MEDIAN
Full-time Directorship	97,013	44,132
Chairman	89,280	43,000
Other directors	67,500	32,500
Part-time directorships	47,500	37,500

"The view from Birmingham, Sheffield and Glasgow is rather different. Even in Aberdeen, when it leapt to fame as a tartan Texas, the increase in salaries based on North Sea oil did not match the recent explosion for high fliers in London."

It is forecast that the London figure will rise next year to £26,250, of which a quarter is bonuses. The increases show

how inflationary and competitive the market for the best directors has become, according to the survey.

"It is hardly surprising that companies are looking at option schemes with their built-in golden handcuffs as one method of reducing salary escalation in this area."

The best salary prospects are in financial and information businesses, up to an average of £27,500 next year, compared with £18,000 in low-technology manufacturing.

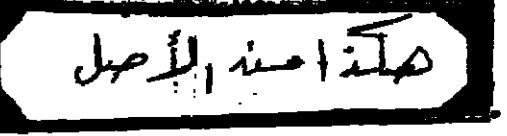
Amalgamations of industries in the past 30 years have tended to give executives a salary premium of up to 40 per cent, but there are signs, says the report, that differentials are

closing and that newer, small companies are the trend setters. Next year's forecast for average salary rises is 6 per cent, but 28 per cent of the smaller firms, particularly those with a turnover of less than £1 million, are expecting increases of 10 per cent.

On car-buying policy, less than a third of companies say they buy only British models, compared with 42 per cent last year. Twenty per cent of chairman drive a Jaguar or Daimler, but 12 per cent prefer a Mercedes.

Managing directors also favour Jaguars.

Director Rewards, Reward Regional Survey, 1, Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 6BA; £100.



TUC seeks benefits boost in Budget

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

The Trades Union Congress yesterday launched the first salvo in what promises to be a concerted union campaign to influence next spring's Budget.

The unions will argue for a £2.3 billion injection of public funds to increase benefits paid to what they regard as underprivileged groups: families, the unemployed, pensioners and those on low incomes.

Leaders of the TUC argued yesterday that the cost of the programme could easily be met if Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, dropped his plans for £1.5 billion worth of tax cuts in the Budget and from the contingency reserve.

The unions' proposals come on top of a programme drawn up earlier this year to improve the infrastructure of the country through the injection of £6 billion over the next five years. Mr Norman Williams, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday that the Budget submission was closely allied to the need to boost public spending on capital projects and reduce unemployment.

The TUC is calling for an increase in the single person's retirement pension of £9.80p a week to £45.60 and for a married couple a £16 a week increase to £73.30.

The TUC wants increased spending on the unemployed's long term supplementary benefit. The proposals are mainly aimed at ensuring that child benefit payments are universally available and not means tested. The TUC also is calling for an increase in child benefit payments of £3 a week, taking the payment to £9.85.

Port chief to be £70,000 head of health service management

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The chairman of the newly-created National Health Service management board, whose job, in the words of the Griffiths report, will be "general manager, chief officer or director general" of the health service, is to be Mr Victor Paige, chairman of the Port of London Authority.

He will be paid £70,000 a year, making him the highest paid civil servant after Mr Anthony Wilson, the new head of the Government Accounting Service. His post will be at Second Permanent Secretary level. Sir Kenneth Stowe, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health, earns £42,750.

Mr Paige, aged 59, has the job from January 2 on a three-year contract. He worked with Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, when he was Secretary of State for

Transport, as deputy chairman of the National Freight Consortium during its employee buy-out.

Mr Paige said he was "committed to the success of the NHS. I do care about the health service. I do want to make it more effective and efficient and I will do my damndest to achieve that."

The health service, he said, could not be judged in conventional business terms, but it was about consumers, "in this case a critical group called patients". The job was about "improving the quality of patient care".

Mr Paige said he was among the 8 per cent of the population who have private health insurance - Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, does not - and intended to continue to pay for it personally.

He hoped people would not see that undermining his commitment to the health service. "It is not an unusual feature in the world these days, and I do have a commitment to the NHS," he said. His granddaughter had been born recently in a health service hospital.

He said his past career, which included posts in personnel management with the Boots Pure Drug Company, did not provide him with a detailed knowledge of the health service but he believed he could bring management skills into the job to improve the effectiveness with which the £13.5 billion spent on the health service in England is used.



Mr Paige

M40 route announced

New road dispute looms

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

The M40 is to be extended through almost 50 miles of prime countryside between Oxford and Birmingham at a cost of £200 million. The remains doubt about the route of the most environmentally-sensitive section.

All but 11 miles south of Warwick will be built on the route chosen by ministers in 1981. But they have postponed a decision about the southernmost section, near Oxford.

Their 1981 choice slices between the butterfly haunts at Drunkard's Corner and Polcat End and across the flat farmland of Otmoor. It also crosses a field which Friends of the Earth has sold in tiny patches to buyers the world over in the hope of thwarting the plan.

Otmoor gave Lewis Carroll inspiration for the outdoor chessboard which Alice crosses in *Through the Looking Glass*. But there could be environmental opposition to one alternative eastern route, which passes near a historic duck decoy owned by the National Trust.

The postponement of the decision sets the stage for a battle between two Conservative-led county councils.

Oxfordshire opposed the Otmoor route as strongly as Buckinghamshire rejects the alternative near the duck decoy. But ministers made clear nature reserves and beauty spots would not halt the building.

Even if a second inquiry has to be held, construction will start in 1987. Most of the road will follow the 1981 route, starting near Warwick, passing west of Banbury and joining the present M40 east of Oxford.

The new road is intended to relieve the southernmost section of the M1 from London and to provide a better cross-country route between the Channel ports and the Midlands.

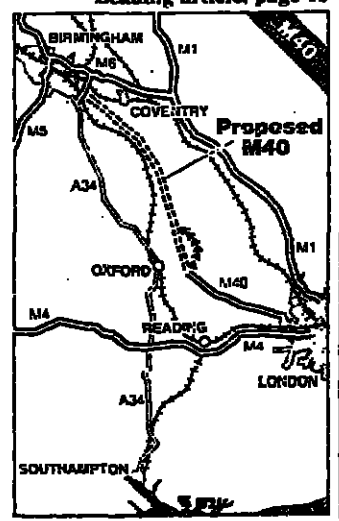
The Government said yesterday that Mr Leonard Vincent, the inspector at a nine-month public inquiry, had recommended strongly that the road be built away from Otmoor and the butterfly reserve of Bernwood Forest.

"Many people have urged us to get on with this route," Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said. "At long last the justification for this link in the national road network has been established."

Mr Fionn Holford-Walker, secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "A second motorway between London and Birmingham is unjustified."

Road hauliers and industrialists welcomed the news yesterday that Mr Ridley was considering forcing a public inquiry before the Greater London Council could introduce in June its controversial ban on heavy lorries.

Leading article, page 13



Greenham shooting policy disclosed

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

The detailed rules for armed servicemen setting out when they can open fire against intruders at highly sensitive installations have been disclosed for the first time.

There was a political furor in November last year when Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, refused to give an assurance that protesters breaking into a nuclear installation such as RAF Greenham Common, where cruise missiles are based, would not be shot.

The Ministry of Defence has always refused to discuss the matter but yesterday the "rules of engagement", which are issued, printed on a pink card, to armed guards, were disclosed in the *New Statesman*.

The card is headed: "Rules of engagement for issue on mobilization to servicemen authorized to carry arms and ammunition in the United Kingdom. (It may also be issued in peacetime to those guarding designated vital premises, property and installations.)"

The rules say that firearms may be used only as a last resort, and only after challenging an intruder.

Also, outside Scotland where the law is different, an intruder may be shot while running away if he has already killed or injured someone and there is no other way of making an arrest.

But there is also a special rule - believed to apply specifically to nuclear stores - which operates "only when you have been told by your superior that it applies to a specific property or installation which your are guarding."

This says that a guard may open fire if an intruder "attempts to take possession of that property or installation or to damage or destroy it; and there is no other way of preventing this."

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said it was "shocking to learn that unarmed civilians who are trespassing, even if they are presenting no threat to nuclear weapons, can be shot in the back by British troops."

Police rule out tighter royal security

By Michael Horsfield

Senior police officers decided yesterday against tightening security around Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at Clarence House after the arrest of a young employee for alleged possession of an offensive weapon.

Mr Boland was arrested in the early hours of Wednesday by a patrolling constable in Page Street, Westminster, about a mile from the royal residence.

He has been released on bail and is to appear at Horseferry Road magistrates' court on January 3 charged with allegedly possessing an offensive weapon, a knife.

Sale room

Sotheby's leads Christie's in international market

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's has pulled ahead of Christie's this autumn in the race for new auction business with a 43 per cent increase in international turnover to £202 million. Christie's has reached £151 million, a 20 per cent increase.

The figures are considered to reflect the uncertain period Sotheby's went through during the period when Mr A. Alfred Taubman bought the company in 1983. Vendors, frightened of Sotheby's troubles, dealt with Christie's and Christie's recorded 50 per cent rise in autumn turnover.

£367,000 for manuscript

At Christie's in London yesterday H. P. Kraus, of New York, spent £367,000 (estimate £90,000-£120,000) for two illuminated leaves from an Anglo-Saxon manuscript.

They come from a Gospel Lectionary thought to have been written and illustrated in Canterbury around AD1000. They are possibly the last Anglo-Saxon illustrations available on the market.

At Sotheby's in New York on Wednesday, the manuscript of the last song composed by Richard Strauss, unpublished and hitherto, found a buyer at \$60,500 or £48,400. The song, entitled "Malven", was written as a gift for the Czech opera singer, Maria Jerizita in Montreux in November 1948 and was bought by a private collector.

In London, Christie's underlined that the new interest in Old Master drawings. The collection of Mrs Donald S. Stralen, devoted to the pre-18th century French and Italian drawings, and sent from America for sale, made £647,700.

Next year's Bicentenary of The Times would provide a very good opportunity to build an even more solid base for the newspaper over the next 200 years. Mr Duke Hussey, director of Times Newspapers said yesterday. He was confident that as a result the circulation would exceed 500,000 copies a day for the first time in its history.

Mr Hussey was speaking at a press conference to announce plans to celebrate the Bicentenary.

Responding to journalists who questioned the editorial policy and coverage of The Times, the editor, dismissed the view that the paper was more pro-Government than it had been under previous proprietors. While he hoped the editorial policy of The Times had become clearer in its opinions under his editorship, the paper continued to espouse policies it thought were right for the country.

Sometimes it thought the Government of Mrs Margaret Thatcher got it right and sometimes that it was wrong. "We never hesitate to publish news that might be damaging to the Government," he added.



All eyes on Mr Arthur Scargill as he takes a break from the trial.

Scargill claims arrest a plot

From Peter Davenport
Rotherham

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, claimed in court yesterday that there had been a deliberate plot to arrest him during mass picketing at the Orgreave coking plant in the early months of the miners' strike.

He also disagreed with the evidence of a senior police officer about events leading to his arrest, on the day after violent confrontations at the works had left 40 policemen and 29 pickets injured. The officer was "certainly not telling the truth," he said.

Mr Scargill was appearing before a stipendiary magistrate at Rotherham, south Yorkshire. He was charged with obstructing the previous plot to arrest him during cross-examination by Mr Roger Keen, for the prosecution. He said that he had been on the picket line on four days before his arrest and had complied with police instructions about where he should stand.

A 35-second video film from a BBC news report of Mr Scargill's arrest was played over three television sets, on at least five occasions. It showed Mr Scargill, carrying a loud hailer and wearing a blue baseball-style cap at the head of a column of men walking on the pavement towards the coking plant.

Then Chief Supt. Nesbitt was seen approaching Mr Scargill and asking him to keep moving. The NUM president was heard to reply: "No way." Within 20 seconds Chief Supt. Nesbitt had ordered his arrest.

Chief Supt. Nesbitt said that he first approached Mr Scargill at 7.30am and said: "Gentlemen, please don't obstruct the footpath. Keep moving. My officers will escort you to a grassed area below the works entrance."

He heard Mr Scargill then say: "Lads, we are staying on the footpath. He can't tell us where to go." Mr Scargill said that the conversation had never taken place.

The case continues today.

Mr Malcolm Pitt, the Kent NUM president, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £25 costs for obstructing a police officer on a picket line at Tilmantstone Colliery, near Deal, on September 3.

The NCB revealed yesterday that it had received more than 2,500 applications for 235 new vacancies at 16 pits in the western region.

Coal board experts are confident they have brought under control and underground fire threatening a £1million development at Rossington colliery.

Coal production stopped at Manton Colliery near Worsop, yesterday - just 24 hours after it became the first pit in the Yorkshire area to produce coal.



Chief Supt. John Nesbitt: evidence on arrest

supporters heading for the works entrance.

Mr Scargill's allegation about the previous plot to arrest him came during cross-examination by Mr Roger Keen, for the prosecution. He said that he had been on the picket line on four days before his arrest and had complied with police instructions about where he should stand.

A 35-second video film from a BBC news report of Mr Scargill's arrest was played over three television sets, on at least five occasions. It showed Mr Scargill, carrying a loud hailer and wearing a blue baseball-style cap at the head of a column of men walking on the pavement towards the coking plant.

Then Chief Supt. Nesbitt was seen approaching Mr Scargill and asking him to keep moving. The NUM president was heard to reply: "No way." Within 20 seconds Chief Supt. Nesbitt had ordered his arrest.

Chief Supt. Nesbitt said that he first approached Mr Scargill at 7.30am and said: "Gentlemen, please don't obstruct the footpath. Keep moving. My officers will escort you to a grassed area below the works entrance."

He heard Mr Scargill then say: "Lads, we are staying on the footpath. He can't tell us where to go." Mr Scargill said that the conversation had never taken place.

The case continues today.

Mr Malcolm Pitt, the Kent NUM president, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £25 costs for obstructing a police officer on a picket line at Tilmantstone Colliery, near Deal, on September 3.

The NCB revealed yesterday that it had received more than 2,500 applications for 235 new vacancies at 16 pits in the western region.

Coal board experts are confident they have brought under control and underground fire threatening a £1million development at Rossington colliery.

Coal production stopped at Manton Colliery near Worsop, yesterday - just 24 hours after it became the first pit in the Yorkshire area to produce coal.

Man set to marry his mother in law

The House of Lords last night gave its blessing to the wedding of Mr Alan Monk, aged 29, a van driver, who wants to marry his mother-in-law.

Mr Monk, who lives with Mrs Valerie Hill, aged 48, his former wife's mother-in-law, Kent, said he was "jubilant and relieved" after years gave his personal Marriage Enabling Bill a second reading. Although the Bill has passed its first hurdle, the couple must wait until a Lords committee and MPs have also given permission for the marriage.

Under common law, a special act of Parliament is needed before Mr Monk can marry Mrs Hill at a register office ceremony. His former marriage ended in divorce.

Mother and children die

A woman and her two children were found dead in a car at their home at Cranfield, near Bedford.

The bodies of Mrs Irene Austin, aged 34, Matthew, aged eight, and Deborah, age six, were found when a milkman broke into a garage when he heard the car engine running.

Football club fraud inquiry

Essex police confirmed yesterday that they arrested Mr Keith Holmes, secretary of Southend United football club, in connection with fraud squad inquiries into the Southend supporters' Christmas club. No charges have been preferred and Mr Holmes has been released on police bail until February.

The football club has agreed that it borrowed money and could not then pay it back in time. It is believed about £70,000 is missing.

More British films promised

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday said 10 new British-made feature films will be produced each year with backing from the National Film Finance Corporation's as yet unnamed successor.

He also held out the long-term hope that the public may be able to buy shares in the body, which will have an annual £3 million budget.

Cheaper flights experiment

Britain and West Germany yesterday announced a two-year experiment which will cut the cost of flying between the two countries by a few pounds.

The Department of Transport said British and German airlines will be free to operate services between the UK and any point in West Germany, and airlines will be able to combine services to make a service viable.

Freeze on postal charges

Postal charges will be frozen until September, the Post Office announced yesterday. The news came as it revealed a £40m pre-tax profit on the six months from April to September.

The profits are £1 million more than the same period last year and reflect a big increase in letter traffic for the third year running.

3 months' jail for Celtic fan

A Celtic fan who punched the goalkeeper of Rapid Vienna, Herbert Feuer, was sentenced yesterday to three months imprisonment by magistrates at Manchester.

John Tobin, aged 31 and unemployed, of Treforest Road, Coventry, who pleaded guilty to threatening behaviour, had run on to the pitch, swung a punch at the goalkeeper and shouted: "I am going to kill you."

Match follow up, page 28

Jobcentre cuts to go ahead

The Manpower Services Commission will go ahead with plans to shed nearly 1,000 Jobcentre staff in spite of strong opposition from the Trades Union Congress.

The plans will mean about a third of the 990 Jobcentres closing over the next three years, with up to 500 new "Jobshops" opening in libraries and shopping centres.

Another 450 posts will go as the commission spends an extra £1 million on new computers in smaller offices, to enable job-seekers to trace vacancies anywhere in the country.

The TUC representatives on commission said they feared the change would mean a reduced personal service for long-term and disabled unemployed people.

The commission deferred until next month considering proposals on replacing 30 Skillcentres with mobile units.

Bandage to speed cures

A new way of dressing wounds could save the National Health Service millions of pounds a year by reducing the need for attention and speeding the healing process. Dr Christopher Lawrence, director of the Medical Research Council's burns research group at Birmingham Accident Hospital, claimed yesterday.

The new dressing, developed in the United States keeps the wound moist instead of letting the air in.

Dr Wynn Weston-Davies, medical director of Squibb Surgicare, who are marketing the dressing in Britain told a Press conference that trials in Darlington with 180 patients showed 76 per cent of ulcers healed within 50 days.

It was claimed that 60 per cent of chronic ulcers could be cured by the treatment. One study showed that an ulcer could be cured with six weekly dressings costing £1.50 each compared with the £1,200 a year it now costs to treat chronic ulcer.

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Beatles could get millions in underpaid royalties after court win over EMI

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Beatles yesterday won their High Court dispute with EMI and may now be due up to £4 million in underpaid royalties and accumulated interest from some of their earliest songs.

Mr Justice Peter Gibson granted, with the consent of EMI Records, an application from the Beatles' company, Apple Corps, that accountants should examine how much the group was underpaid on the earnings of songs, including *Hey Jude*, *Yesterday*, *Help*, and *Yellow Submarine*.

Accountants for the group had claimed that the underpayment could be as much as £2,318,946, but precise details have to be worked out. With interest accrued over two decades, it is estimated the figure could double.

A spokesman for Apple said yesterday: "We are talking of many millions."

The judge said the EMI, whose proud boast was of being the greatest recording organization in the world, had now accepted that many matters needed investigation.

For many people, he said, the 1960s was the decade of the Beatles. "Their songs were, and still are, enjoyed the world over."

In June 1962, when they signed their first recording agreement with Parlophone, a subsidiary of EMI, they were at the start of their meteoric rise to fame, and the royalty rate of one old penny per track reflected their initial obscurity.

Later agreements had been more generous, but in 1980, accountants appointed to audit the royalties reported £2.3 million underpaid.

Apple Corps is owned by the three surviving Beatles, Paul McCartney, George Harrison

Electric car 'could travel at 80mph'

A British electric car with a range and top speed said to be "far in excess of anything yet seen" is being developed with backing from five motor component manufacturers (Clifford Webb writes).

The prototype could be on the road within three months and, according to its designer, Mr Joe Schwarzkopf-Bowers, it will have a range of 140 miles between battery charges and a top speed of 80mph.

Mr Schwarzkopf-Bowers, aged 37, earns his living as a computer analyst. But such is his reputation and achievement with earlier electric cars built in the garage of his home at Watford that some of the biggest names in the component industry will reveal their sponsorship of his latest project on January 4.

Yesterday he said: "I started by converting a Mini to battery power and then followed it up with a Triumph Herald. Now I want to convert a glass-fibre bodied car which will be much lighter, and give a far better power-to-weight ratio."

The five sponsors are Unipart, the B.L. spares and accessories subsidiary, Uniroyal Tyres, Berger Paints, Varta Batteries, and H.B. Switcheer.

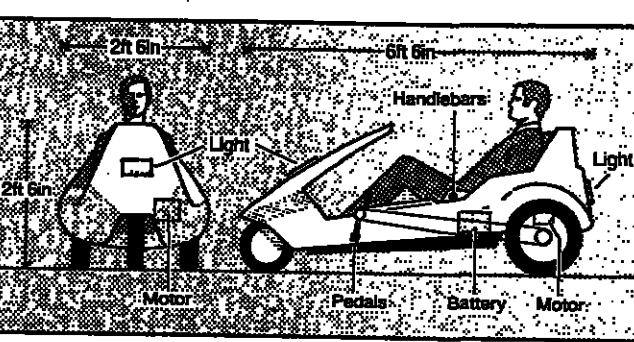


Mr Schwarzkopf-Bowers with the Bond Equipe car the shell of which he will use for his new project (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Battery-powered town car to cost £400

An open-topped electrically powered three-wheeled town car with a range of about 25 miles is to be launched by Sir Clive Sinclair, the electronics manufacturer, next month for about £400.

However a number of questions remain unanswered until the car is submitted to independent road testing. The most important by far is its maximum speed of only 15mph. Such slowness combined with the need for pedal assistance to accelerate from standstill, could lead to problems in city traffic.



The car is powered by an electric motor charged by a lead-acid battery with Sinclair's modifications. Its open-top design will require the driver to wear weatherproof clothing although a crash helmet does not have to be worn under existing legislation.

The car has been designed to conform to legislation which will allow anyone over 14 years old to drive it on a public road. It is the result of two years' research and an investment of £10 million.

It is steered by a handlebar mechanism which runs underneath the driver's thighs. The car, which has been tested at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory at Crowthorne has a number of novel features which give it the appearance of a toy.

Lords back ex-husband over house deal

A divorced husband whose former wife remarried two days after he signed over his share of the family home to her was entitled to have the deal called off. The House of Lords ruled in London yesterday.

Five Law Lords unanimously allowed an appeal by Mr David Jenkins, a swimming pool supervisor, and set aside a divorce court consent order in which he gave his £12,000 half share in Peach Tree Cottage, Higher Tetmar, St Cleer, Liskeard, Cornwall, to his ex-wife, Betty.

Two days after he signed over his share on September 22, 1982, she married Mr Thomas Livesey.

The Law Lords ruled that the consent order was invalid because the ex-wife failed to "make full and frank disclosure" of material facts.

Lord Brandon of Oakbrook said an important part of the deal was that she would give up any other claims for financial provision for herself.

But under the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, on remarriage a wife would lose all entitlement to financial provision from her ex-husband.

If Mr Jenkins or his solicitors had been told that his ex-wife intended to remarry, he would not have agreed to transfer his share of the home.

Lord Brandon warned divorced partners against trying to get orders set aside because of failure to disclose "minor matters." Such applications would be likely to fail and result in a bill for costs.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, said a former wife would be "naturally reticent" about any plan to remarry.

He added that consent orders which effected a "clean break" between former spouses should not be set aside without powerful reasons.

Lord Scarman, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Bridge of Harwich agreed.

Wider publication of programmes urged

By David Hewson

The BBC and ITV companies are unfairly restricting competition by limiting programme information to their own magazines, *TV Times* and *Radio Times*, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) said yesterday.

After a nine-month investigation into the restrictions the two networks place on other publications carrying programme details, the OFT supported independent publishers who have been critical of the existing "duopoly" on television information.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, said, after the publication of the report, that he will refer both cases to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for consideration of the public interest issues involved unless the BBC and ITV give acceptable undertakings before February 6.

The report's findings were rejected by both ITV and the BBC, though neither side ruled out the question of a compromise before the deadline.

But the report was welcomed by Mr Tony Elliott, the proprietor of the magazine, *TV Times* and *Radio Times*.

TV Times and Radio Times circulation January-June

	TV Times	Radio Times
1979	3,648,655	3,679,649
1980	3,322,568	3,602,155
1981	3,254,277	3,545,763
1982	3,214,410	3,410,698
1983	3,288,228	3,375,881
1984	3,107,775	3,212,806

The next largest circulating magazines in Britain are *Woman's Weekly* (1.4 million) and *Woman's Own* (1.2 million) and *Woman* (1.2 million).

Time Out, which has spent £75,000 on an unsuccessful legal action against the networks' refusal to make programme details more widely available.

He said: "We will be responsible and wait for the outcome before we print full programme details, but we're not prepared to wait 10 years."

The joint annual advertising revenues of the two publications was £95m in 1973.

The BBC said profits from *Radio Times* are ploughed back into programme making.

'Sexist bias' in schools geography

By Lucy Hodges

Changes in the teaching of geography to counteract what is seen as a sexist bias in textbooks is proposed in a report from the Inner London Education Authority's geography teachers' centre.

It says, for example, that pupils should be taught about how women in Third World countries 'hoe the fields and collect water. At present the emphasis is almost exclusively on the economic role of men, it says, with most textbook pictures depicting men sitting on tractors and taking all the decisions. If women are portrayed, they are shown in domestic or passive roles.

The report, prepared by a group of 18 teachers, 10 women and eight men, has the formal backing of ILEA's equal opportunities sub-committee.

Changing the geography syllabus would encourage more girls to study geography, the teachers said. Although girls usually achieve higher grades than boys in geography at O level and CSE, significantly fewer girls opt for the subject.

● Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is being urged to introduce grants for sixth-formers as part of his review of student loans.

In a letter to Sir Keith, made public today, Mr Giles Radice, Labour's education spokesman, also calls on the Secretary of State to publish Department of Education and Science papers from previous departmental examinations of the feasibility of student loans.

Mr Radice proposes that the review should seek to give young people much greater financial independence.

● Four out of five of children given places under the Government's Assisted Places Scheme, which sends children from poorer families to fee-paying schools at the taxpayer's expense, have won places at university or polytechnic.

Figures published today by the Independent Schools Information Service show that of the 558 state-aided sixth-form leavers last year, 335, or 60.4 per cent, went to university and a further 109, or 19.5 per cent, to polytechnic and other degree courses.

● A jury at the Central Criminal Court was asked yesterday to release the novelist Mrs Helen Charlton Hough, from the "agony" of a murder trial.

Mr George Carman, QC, for the defence, urged the jury to find her guilty of assisting a suicide. "You may think that whatever Mrs Hough did on that tragic day was done out of compassion, unselfishness and mercy for a pitiful human being."

Mrs Hough, aged 59, of Ivor Street, Camden Town, north London, has pleaded not guilty of murdering Miss Anita Harding, aged 84, of Fitzroy Road, Camden, north London, on November 4.

Mrs Hough was not called to give evidence.

The case continues today.



Best friends: Mr Frank Mattingley shows his affection for his Welsh border collie, Tipper, who yesterday received an award from the National Canine Defence League for saving his life.

Mr Mattingley, aged 68, of West End, Southampton, collapsed earlier this year, seriously ill. Before losing consciousness he whispered Tipper's name. Doctors, believing it to be a last request to see a relative, told Mr Mattingley's family, who brought the dog to the City general hospital.

As the dog waited outside the ward, it began to howl. Mr Mattingley was revived from his coma, and began to recover.

I am convinced I would not be here today if it was not for "Tipper", Mr Mattingley said yesterday.

Co-ops break pact and sell cheap EEC butter early

Eight Cooperative societies have decided to break a gentlemen's agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and put cut-price EEC butter on sale before Christmas.

The butter is from a 39,200-tonne allocation to Britain as part of an EEC attempt to reduce the huge surplus stocks held in storage.

The agreement was that the butter would not be made available to the public until mid-January, when trade is invariably slack, but the societies, representing the North Eastern, North West, Ipswich, Colchester, Greater Nottingham, Portsea Island (Portsmouth) and Greater Peterborough areas, decided to preempt the agreed period.

Permanent subsidy for London Zoo

London Zoo is to receive a permanent subsidy, the Government announced yesterday. Initial grants will total up to £5.75 million over the next three years with later levels of support to be reviewed.

The announcement, in a Parliamentary reply by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, ends a four-year struggle by the Zoological Society of London, which runs the zoos at Regent's Park and Whipsnade, to win the financial security that its counterparts elsewhere take for granted.

Since 1982, emergency grants from the Government to the society have totalled almost £3 million. Last year, the Government agreed to cover annual operating deficits of up to £2 million until 1986.

Plea to spare novelist 'agony' of murder trial

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Eccentric turns the clock forward

By Tony Samstag

Time stood still in clubland yesterday, as the 94-year-old Eccentric Club of St James's, London, prepared to haul itself by its Edwardian bootstraps into the late twentieth century.

At 1.16pm precisely Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, the newly-elected president, ceremoniously launched a £2 million refurbishment scheme, which will close the club for almost a year, by stopping the pendulum of the famously eccentric clock that has graced the club's bar since its early days.

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When the clock is restarted late next year, the club (renamed "The Eccentric Club, St James's") will boast new facilities including a video conference room, 21 bedrooms (with baths for the first time), and a light buffet open most of the time.

Membership, will include women, and generally will be open to "a broad cross-section of society", a far cry from the theatrical rogues who founded the club and fined each other 25 guineas for entering the bar in coat and hat.

"IT IS TYPICALLY BRITISH TO SET UP A COMPETITION FOR A NEW BASIC TRAINER FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE IN WHICH FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS ARE INVITED TO COMPETE WITH AN EXCELLENT HOME PRODUCED AIRCRAFT."

INTERAVIA (SWISS AEROSPACE MAGAZINE) MAY 1984

"OBVIOUSLY WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WHICH IS TO SECURE THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE TRAINER TO MEET ITS NEEDS OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DECADES."

MR JOHN LEE, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT, HOUSE OF COMMONS, 4th JULY 1984.

"I AM IN NO DOUBT THAT TURBO FIRECRACKER IS THE MOST SUITABLE ON GROUNDS OF HANDLING CHARACTERISTICS, PRICE AND THE FACT THAT IT IS A HOME DESIGN WAITING TO PROVIDE JOBS IN THE UK."

ALAN BRAMSON, PILOT MAGAZINE, JUNE 1984.

"WHEN IT COMES TO A CHOICE BETWEEN BRITISH AND FOREIGN PURCHASE, OUR POLICY IS TO BUY BRITISH WHEREVER IT IS GOOD SENSE, ECONOMIC AND CONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS TO DO SO."

MR GEOFFREY PATTIE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT, HOUSE OF COMMONS, 2nd FEBRUARY 1984.

"WE HAVE IN BRITAIN A COMPANY WHICH HAS DESIGNED AND BUILT AN AIRCRAFT WITH PRIVATE MONEY, WHICH MEETS THE RAF'S ESSENTIAL SPECIFICATION. IT IS CHEAPER THAN THE FOREIGN COMPETITION AND CAN DEMONSTRATE THE CREATION OF JOBS AND A LARGE POTENTIAL EXPORT MARKET IT HAS FIRM INDUSTRIAL BACKING AND EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT THE RAF FOR A 25-YEAR IN-SERVICE PERIOD."

MR KEITH BEST MP, HOUSE OF COMMONS, 4th JULY 1984.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY TO THE BRITISH ECONOMY CANNOT BE OVER ESTIMATED. INDEED, IF WE HAD TO PRODUCE AN IDEAL EXAMPLE OF AN INDUSTRY WITH HIGH VALUE ADDED EXPORT PRODUCTS, WE NEED LOOK NO FURTHER THAN AEROSPACE."

THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, SEPTEMBER 1980.

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Industry chiefs back £50bn European transport links

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A £50 billion scheme to revitalize Europe with a range of transnational road, tunnel and railway projects was launched in London yesterday by a group comprising some of the Continent's leading and most influential industrialists.

The group, which calls itself the Roundtable and which includes Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, claimed that travelling across Europe could be halved by massive investment in the infrastructure and that this would give a major boost to business competitiveness.

Three specific projects are advocated: a road-rail link across the English Channel, a high-speed rail network across the Continent using available technology such as magnetic levitation, and a motorway and rail system to connect Scandinavia with the rest of Europe and including two fixed links across the Oresund and the German belt.

The proposals, plus new or upgraded crossings into the Iberian peninsula, Italy and the Balkans, would, the group said, have wide range impacts including stimulus to European industrial technology.

Mr Pehr Gyllenhammar, president of Volvo and chairman of the 22-member Roundtable, said the number of jobs created by the schemes would be "very dramatic" with the cross-Channel link alone estimated to need 100,000 workers for five years.

The Roundtable, whose members together command vast resources across Europe and collectively could exert considerable pressure on governments, includes names such as Signor Umberto Agnelli of Fiat, Sir John Clark of Plessey, Mr Kenneth Durham of Unilever, Herr Dieter Spethmann of Thyssen, M Bernard Hanon of Renault and Mr Wisse Dekker of Philips. All are chairmen, chief executives, presidents or managing directors of their companies.

Schemes advocated by the group were said to be examples of what was needed, yet the only cross-Channel link described was the Euroroute scheme being promoted by a group including Mr MacGregor, who originally supported the idea when he was chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Gyllenhammar stressed that there was no vested interest on the part of members of the group, but rather a desire to see Europe succeed in the same way as the United States or Japan.

"The potential must be tapped and we are running out of time," he said.

Some of the projects could be financed largely by the private sector, the Roundtable says, but there is an urgent need for governments to create the right investment climate with harmonization of tax concessions and other fiscal incentives.

The set of proposals, which the group describes as the "Missing Links", would be most attractive financially if considered as part of "a coherent European-scale programme".

Magistrates move for legal protection

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Magistrates' Association has approached the Lord Chancellor over whether magistrates should be protected in law against civil actions and claims by victims of courtroom injustice.

Some magistrates have expressed concern to the association about their vulnerability to actions from defendants after a law lords ruling last month.

The lords held that a Northern Ireland bench of justices was liable to a civil claim for damages because they had not informed the defendant of his right to legal aid.

Another bench is facing legal action and a claim for substantial damages for alleged wrongful imprisonment of a man over his failure to pay a maintenance order.

Section 45 of the Justices of the Peace Act 1974 gives a person who is injured by an act of a magistrate exceeding his jurisdiction the right to bring a legal action. The question in this case is over the magistrates' power to enforce a maintenance order made in a higher court and to send the man to prison for non-payment.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of Magistrates' Association, said: "There ought to be a scheme for compensating people without the need for magistrates to be sued."

Under section 53 of the Act, magistrates could be indemnified against such actions by the local magistrates' court's committee where they had acted in good faith, he said.

"But it is still not very happy for them to have to face legal action over a period of possibly several months."

Magistrates should have the same protection against being sued as judges, he said. "Justices have to deal with cases without the detailed legal argument that judges get from counsel on both sides, so they have the difficult job of acting unassisted by all that collective wisdom."

In their ruling the law lords criticized the lack of protection for JPs and called for changes

Dolls' house hid heroin, court told

A couple used their children's dolls' house to store heroin worth thousands of pounds, Inner London Crown Court heard yesterday.

In one week alone police watched 463 callers visit Christopher and Penelope Chequer's home in Billington Road, New Cross, south London, the court heard.

The dolls' house was a gift to their three children, a boy aged 22 months and two daughters, aged 6 and 3, all of whom have been taken into care.

Christopher Chequer, aged 32, was jailed for nine years after he admitted supplying heroin. His wife was jailed for seven years after she was convicted of supplying the drug.

Bernard Hinks, aged 29, of Clarendon Rise, Lewisham, described in court as a "major dealer" was jailed for nine years and Craig Bertrand, aged 23, of Harden Court, Tamar Street, Charlton, was sentenced to two years for supplying the drug.

Mr David Lowe, aged 32, a car dealer of Bowling Green Row, Woolwich, was found not guilty of supplying heroin.

Judge Shindler, QC, told the convicted: "You are a menace to society and exemplary sentences must be passed."

'Starvation' fear for homeless

By Nicholas Timmins

The Government's plans to set new limits and rules for board and lodging payments will mean some people will be faced with "starvation or the streets", Shelter said yesterday.

The proposal to limit single people to between £50 and £70 a week for board and lodging will leave them with between £4.04 and £6.90 a night for bed and breakfast after allowing for the other meals element in the payments, the housing pressure group said.

For couples with children, if the Government goes ahead with its proposal to pay them only one-and-a-half or one-and-three-quarters of the single person's rate, the amount available for bed and breakfast a night after deducting the meals allowance could be as little as 61p per person.

The proposals "will mean overcrowding, squalid conditions - even the streets. People will have to choose between a bed and a meal - there will not be money for both."

The proposals aim to prevent young people living on "dole by the sea" and to curb an increase in spending from £277 million last year to an estimated £380 million this.

Trinity House considers cuts in pilot service

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Government proposals for the reduction of Britain's sea pilotage service have received the guarded support of Trinity House, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is Master.

A Green paper for the Department of Transport proposes that the pilotage force should be heavily cut back and controlled by port authorities rather than Trinity House.

The implication of the plan is that Trinity House, which controls about a third of the coastal pilots, including those in such areas as London and the South East, would be reduced to the role of agent for the port authorities, and then only for those who request it.

The proposals threaten the long standing autonomy of 1,400 pilots who have always been self-employed. Recently their income has been guaranteed at up to £25,000 a year, though some work only 10 hours a week. Only about 600 are thought to be needed.

To date, successive attempts to cut the pilot force at the merchant fleet shrank and with the introduction of new navigational aids, have foundered.

Trial by jury - not by media

Australian judge to face charges

From Tony Danaher, Melbourne

Mr Justice Lionel Murphy of the High Court is to be charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice and become the first High Court judge to face criminal charges.

The decision to charge Mr Justice Murphy, aged 62, a former federal Attorney-General under Mr Gough Whitlam's Labour Government, was announced yesterday by Mr Ian Temby QC, the federal Director of Public Prosecutions, and comes after two all-party Senate Committee inquiries into the judge's behaviour.

Mr Temby said he had decided that there was enough evidence to warrant Mr Justice Murphy's prosecution in relation to the hearing of a conspiracy charge against the Sydney solicitor, Mr Morgan Ryan.

The decision said nothing about the guilt or innocence of either Mr Ryan or Mr Justice Murphy, Mr Temby said. It was of paramount importance that the judge receive a fair trial, and as far as he could see the only thing standing in the way of that was a trial by the media.

Likewise, he hoped there would be no further parliamentary proceedings or debate concerning Mr Justice Murphy until the charge had been disposed of.

The matter will be dealt with by judge and jury in the Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court. A date for the hearing has not been fixed, but it is unlikely it would be before February, unless special sittings are arranged. The ACT Supreme Court rises today and resumes on February 5.

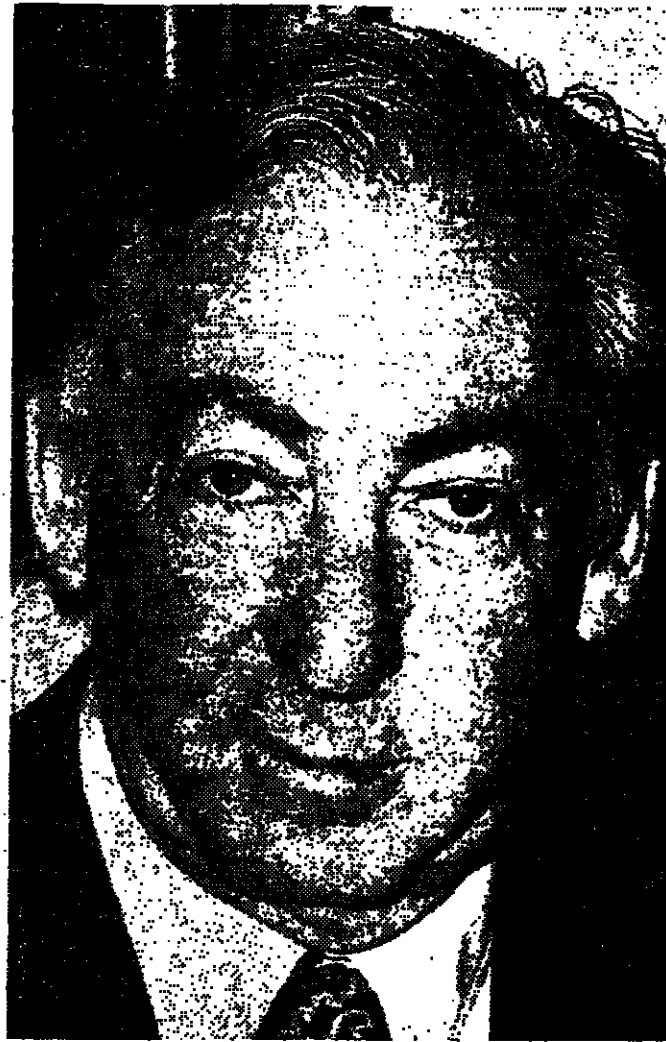
Mr Justice Murphy has been on leave from the High Court since soon after the report of the second Senate Committee was handed down at the end of October.

He made a brief statement yesterday: "I have not committed any offence. I waive my right to a committal hearing in order that the air can be cleared as quickly as possible. I welcome the fact that the allegations will be tried by judge and jury, not the media."

A majority of the second Senate Committee found that "on the balance of probabilities" Mr Justice Murphy had tried to influence the outcome of the Ryan case, which involved an alleged immigration racket. The earlier Senate inquiry had split on party lines.

Mr Kerry Packer, head of Australian Consolidated Press, has decided to drop a proposed action for defamation against Mr Douglas Meagher QC, counsel assisting the Costigan royal commission into organized crime in Australia.

A writ was taken out, but not delivered to Mr Meagher. It claimed damages relating to allegations that Mr Meagher was responsible for leaking summaries of the royal commission to the *National Times* news weekly.



Mr Justice Murphy: Welcomes chance to clear the air.

Mass flight of Sikhs to Punjab

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi

Nearly 100,000 Sikhs are believed to have moved in the past few days from different parts of India to the Punjab, where the Sikhs are in a majority. They form about 52 per cent of the population.

Newspapers carry a lot of advertisements, mostly from the Sikhs, offering property.

There is a growing fear among Sikhs that there may be one more round of communal disturbances before the election day - December 24 - in order to keep them away from the polling booths.

So persistent have been these rumours that the federal Home Ministry in Delhi yesterday issued a statement intended to allay the fears of the Sikhs. A ministry spokesman denied that there was widespread panic among the Sikhs.

The ministry has also directed the states and territories of India to take necessary steps to instil confidence among the minorities and ensure the safety of life and property.

Sri Lanka hits back at Rajiv

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

The Government of Sri Lanka yesterday expressed regret and dismay over the statement by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, on Sri Lanka which by its language, tone and substance "could only encourage Tamil terrorists and their supporters to pursue their nefarious activities."

A statement issued by the Foreign Minister, Mr A. C. S. Hameed, at the Cabinet's request, expressed surprise and regret that Mr Gandhi had accused Sri Lanka security forces of indiscriminate killing, and had not referred to terrorist violence which had led to the brutal killing of innocent civilians.

Mr Hameed said it was the escalation of terrorist activity which had made necessary effective measures to defend life and property.

He charged that the Indian Government had "chosen to turn a blind eye to the activities of Sri Lanka terrorists on Indian territory."

Sect's papers shut down

Islamabad - The Punjab state Government has closed a printing press owned by the Ahmedi Jamaat, a declared non-Muslim minority, and suspended four Ahmedi newspapers and journals for three months (Our Correspondent writes).

A Pakistan Government spokesman said yesterday that the publications had been printing objectionable material. Muslim organisations have asked the Government in Islamabad to ban the Ahmedi annual conference, reported to be planned in Rawalpindi, the movement's headquarters, late this month. The Government had warned the rivals to refrain from creating disturbances.



GUESS WHICH TRAIN HAS JUST BROKEN THE RECORD FROM LONDON TO GLASGOW.

The APT development train has just covered the 401 miles from London to Glasgow in 232 minutes. No train in Britain has ever travelled so far so fast. This is another step in the successful development of tilt technology for the next generation of InterCity High Speed Trains.



Kirkpatrick and Baker are likely rivals in battle for Reagan's ear

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The key people surrounding President Reagan in the White House are jostling to fill a power vacuum that will be created by the departure early next year of Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsel, to become Attorney General. Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the outgoing US Ambassador to the United Nations, is being touted by conservatives as a possible successor.

The battle for the President's ear is on both a personal and ideological level. Ideologically, it centres on two rival Republican wings: the right wing and the moderates.

Mr Meese, a conservative, is an old friend of the President, a vital link between the Oval Office and the powerful conservative lobby. He is what conservatives call "a true believer", a member of the right wing.

It is well-known in Washington that often the President is through Mr Meese. He is expected to leave the White House in February.

Mr Meese has suggested that Mr Reagan may not appoint another conservative. Conservatives would be unhappy with the President surrounded by officials, who do not carry the sort of direct clout they are seeking.

As Attorney General, a Cabinet post, Mr Meese will continue to be close to the President. But his greatest value to conservatives - that of keeping the door open to the Oval Office - will be lost. Even if Mrs Kirkpatrick fills the job, the departure of Mr Meese will remain a serious loss to the conservative lobby.

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Treating the survivors of Bhopal



Doctors who are on strike over an assault on a colleague continue to treat victims.

Rebels step up war against Marcos

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Communist guerrilla attacks and influence in the central Philippines have increased alarmingly and New People's Army rebels are aiming to establish a clandestine provisional revolutionary government in the region within two years, according to military officials.

A stepped-up "strategic offensive" is planned in the Central Visayas region, involving a military and propaganda operation coupled with a intensified drive to recruit supporters to fight the 19-year-old Marcos Government, the officials said.

In a briefing for the armed forces' Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, the military commanders of the Regional Unified Commands in Eastern and Western Visayas also confirmed mounting popular support for the rebels.

The NPA had gained much support from "non-traditional sectors", such as professional people, landowners and businessmen, who provided much of their financial backing, said Brigadier-General Isidoro de Guzman of the Western Visayas RUC.

He reported that in the first nine months of the year there were 223 "violent incidents" in the five provinces under his command, in which 82 soldiers and 60 civilians died. There were six raids on towns and military camps.

In the Eastern Visayas, 11 towns and 29 military camps and outposts were raided. Brigadier-General Salvador Mison said. He complained to General Ramos that troop detachments were undermanned and underarmed. Soldiers killed in battle were not replaced and no new weapons were issued for those captured by the NPA. There were an estimated 850 NPA guerrillas in the region, General Mison said, supported by 15,000 "activists".

The NPA's "mass base of support" - the population under their control or supportive of their actions - was more than 250,000 on Samar Island alone, he said.

Military and government officials in recent weeks have conceded greater battlefield success, support and mobility of NPA guerrillas who, General Ramos estimates, could number 10,000 to 12,000 men spread across almost all of the country's 73 provinces.

Doctors say sight can be saved

From Trevor Fishlock, Bhopal

Hundreds of people in Bhopal have suffered serious eye damage and some will be left with a permanent partial loss of sight. Nevertheless, eye specialists are confident that the great majority of those affected by the leaking methyl isocyanate (MIC) have not suffered serious eye injury.

Pictures of people with bandaged eyes can be misleading. Eyes are covered as part of the treatment, and a temporary impairment of vision is caused by one of the drugs used in the treatment.

Mrs Sudhar Garg is typical of many people who felt their eyes burning and irritating as the yellow gas drifted into their homes. When I saw her on Sunday her eyes were bandaged. Yesterday the bandages were off and she was told her sight should return to normal.

Mrs Garg was treated at Bhopal military hospital, which has admitted 450 gas victims. Major R. Khatri, an eye specialist there, said: "About 5 per cent of our eye cases are graded as very serious - that means they have a lot of damage to the cornea and will have partial blindness."

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Strained relations on mend as Canada warms to the US

From John Best, Ottawa

Canada's new Conservative Government has moved on two fronts in recent days to harmonize relations with the United States, often strained under the previous Liberal administration.

In doing so it has stoked an increasingly vigorous debate here about how close Canada should allow itself to be drawn into the embrace of its big neighbour.

The latest move was the speech which the Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, made to the Economic Club of New York this week, which amounted to an open call for more US business investment in Canada.

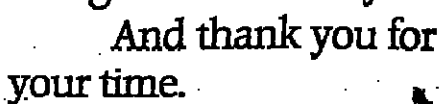
Outlining his Government's plans for abolishing most of the restrictions on foreign investment instituted several years ago by the Liberals, Mr Mulroney said: "Our message is clear - Canada is open for business again." About 1,500 high-powered business executives and financiers applauded loudly.

Mr Mulroney's speech followed by three days the introduction by the Tories of legislation to abolish the Foreign Investment Review Agency and replace it with a new agency to be known as Investment Canada.

The new agency's mandate will be to stimulate foreign investment, rather than hinder it by obstructive screening processes aimed at determining whether individual transactions are in Canada's interest, as takes place under FIRA.

The proposed changes are the most concrete evidence yet of the Government's

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FRIDAY PAGE

How Sonia learned to be a Gandhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi's murder has turned the spotlight onto her son Rajiv and his wife Sonia. As elections loom Michael Hamlyn, our correspondent in India, reports on the changes in Sonia's life

The beef of Calcutta is renowned in India as the finest quality available in the country. The Muslim butchers there have a reputation second to none and when Sonia Gandhi, the Italian daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, telephoned her Muslim friends to come over for a beef barbecue no-one was much surprised.

Her Hindu husband Rajiv, then merely a pilot for Indian Airlines, had flown back from Calcutta with a special sample of the city's produce. No religious Hindu, of course, would have anything to do with the stuff but in those days Rajiv was not to be regarded as such. His father was a Parsee and since the only way of becoming a Parsee is to have a Parsee father, he could excuse such a heterodox diet by disclaiming religious inhibition.

Not any more. Now that he is Prime Minister himself, he has made every effort to appear a regular Kashmiri brahmin like his mother and grandfather.

The funeral ceremony he conducted for his mother, witnessed by millions of Indians on Indian television as well as by hundreds of millions around the world, was firmly based on the Vedic rites of the Hindu religion. On the first day of his election campaign he went to the holiest Hindu city, Varanasi, to pay his respects to Lord Shiva at the Golden Temple beside the River Ganges.

His wife, meanwhile, is doing her best to appear as much like a good and dutiful Hindu wife as it is possible for an Italian to be. She never appears in public these days without her head demurely covered with the pall, the free end of her sari. Gone are the days when she shopped with her friends at boutiques in smart South Delhi where manufacturers exporting to the West display their wares.

She no longer sports the long boots and chunky sweaters that kept her Latin blood warm in the chill of a Delhi December, and she is never seen in the *kurtas* and *churidars*, the tunic and narrow trousers that many

westerners affect when sporting Indian dress.

"The Prime Minister's wife has very firm ideas on what she should or should not do," said a senior official in Mr Gandhi's office, and added with obvious approval: "She absolutely does not see any journalists, nor does anybody close to her speak about her."

In any Indian social function you are likely to find the men talking of politics or share prices and the women sitting separately at the other end discussing more domestic concerns. The same thing happens in Italy today so the social arrangements will not have come as a total surprise to the former Miss Sonia Maino.

Sonia was born 36 years ago, the daughter of a small businessman from Cremona near Turin. She was in Cambridge to improve her English and found herself sitting across from darkly handsome Rajiv Gandhi. They fell in love.

The elder son of the Indian Prime Minister had been found a place at Trinity College, where Lord Butler was Master, thanks to the Butler family's connection with Uttar Pradesh where the Nehru family first came to prominence.

In fact Rajiv's stay on the banks of the river Cam was otherwise less

than successful and a tactful withdrawal was permitted soon afterwards. A spell at Imperial College in London provided no further proof of intellectual ability in the future leader of his country and a second withdrawal took him to the Pilots' School in Bangalore where he trained to fly Indian Airlines Boeings.

In the meantime he told his mother of his intentions towards Sonia. Mrs Gandhi was not pleased. The Indian political community is particularly sensitive to allegations of foreign influence at the heart of government and for the Prime Minister's son to have a foreign bride could have been an electoral liability.

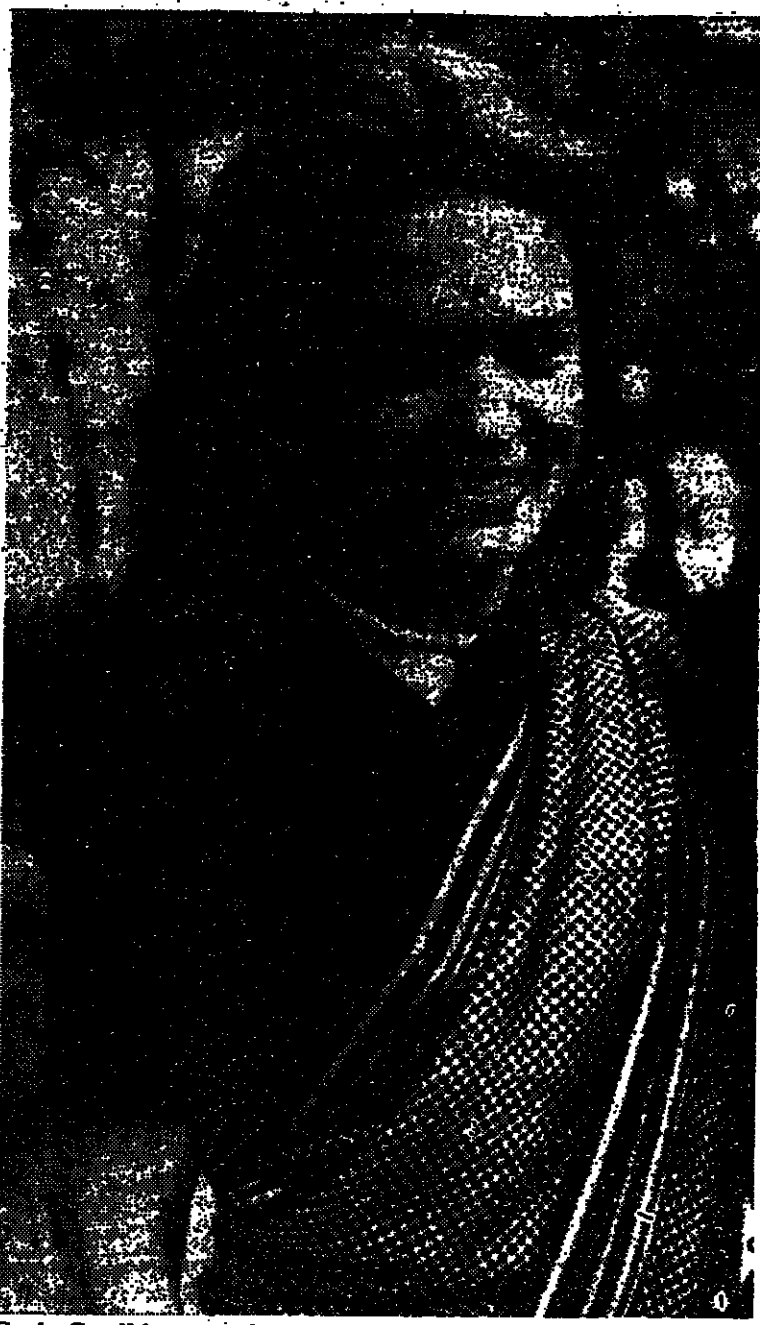
She advised a cooling off period. But when it ended with the couple's fervour for each other undiminished she allowed the marriage to go ahead. After all Rajiv had no political ambitions. Indeed, he claimed total lack of interest in politics.

After the marriage and the birth of a daughter and a son, Priyanka and Rahul, the couple became one of the more decorative pairs on the glossy upper class circuit in Delhi. Sonia was featured in the fashionable magazines as one of the jet-set.

"It was all wrong," says one of her friends from those days. "She was never one for dancing and celebrating in public. She has always been a domestic type." Another friend says: "She is actually very quiet, shy and sensitive. Her whole life has always revolved around Rajiv and the children."

These qualities and her culinary abilities also endeared her to her mother-in-law. Mrs Gandhi liked Italian food, says a constant visitor to the Prime Minister's house in those days. "I think it reminded her of her own days in Europe. Sonia is very domestic and even grows her own herbs. She often used to give little pots of basil as presents."

The comparison between Mrs Gandhi's two daughters-in-law has been quite striking. Sanjay's wife, and now widow, Menaka, who came from a straight-laced Sikh military



Sonia Gandhi, now at home in a sari. Right, arriving with husband Rajiv and family for Indira Gandhi's last rites before cremation



'When Mrs Gandhi was shot it was Sonia crying 'Mummy, Mummy' who rushed her into a car and cradled her head on the way to hospital'

sacrifices on Sonia's part.

Her children were taken away from their schools, so as not to endanger other children by their proximity. The kitchen Hindi she had picked up was developed into a political tool to enable her to address women's rallies in her husband's constituency. Her Italian nationality became a political issue. The fact that she travelled on an Indian passport, though technically she was still Italian, was raised in Parliament. Last year she finally became an Indian citizen.

If any Italian company ever wins a government contract someone always manages to attribute it to Sonia's influence. The Italian community in Delhi, in a deliberate move to protect itself against this kind of canard, has now distanced itself from her. Her sister Nadia who was married to a Spanish diplomat serving in Delhi has been transferred with her husband elsewhere.

A friend says: "She once said to me: 'Just between you and me, I hope I never live to see the day when Rajiv goes into politics.' But really she has always tried to do whatever her husband wanted - just like a good Hindu wife."

Deliver me from the deadly British letter-box

If you ever find yourself on an unmade road on a wet day with a copy of the 1984 London South Yellow Pages under your arm in a flimsy polythene bag do not, whatever you do, allow the neck of that bag to point in any direction but upwards. If you do, the tome will slip out like so much wet fish and land, face down and open, in a puddle of brown water.

I know, whereof I speak because for the greater of last week (or so it seems) I have been delivering that brightly coloured volume from door to door to South London. An indignity for one in my position but, because this unfortunately involves having to live mostly off a real-world (ie. non-journalistic) income, when I hear of a good thing - or what sounds like a nice little earner - I am inclined to exclaim, "Okay, let's go!" Delivering Yellow Pages?

You probably thought, as I did, that the Post Office or British Telecom or whoever were responsible for this task. They were, but are no more. The job has been, as they say, privatized and taken over by a company which seems determined to bring to the distribution of Yellow Pages a novel and quite awe-inspiring pun: till.

The result of their scrupulous attention to detail is that the house-to-house distributor has to set out armed with enormous

FIRST PERSON



batches of cards bearing the names and addresses of the individual punters (which wash off in the rain), other cards for pushing through the letter-box when nobody answers the door, pens for losing and between times marking these cards after a complicated system, several hundred "polybags", and of course, the Yellow Pages themselves.

Most of this I learned only when it was too late to back out. But I had a friend with an unusually roomy car (capacity upward of 400 London Souths) and the remnants of a festive fancy that it might have been rather fun to be a postman. The last few days have put paid to that.

Consider, for example, the

letter-box. Leaving aside the difficulties of locating the damned things (they can be anywhere) and the fact that they are invariably too small to accommodate anything bulkier than the latest Prize Draw offer, the really dreadful thing about them is their sheer brute strength.

The average suburban letter-box is kept shut by coiled industrial-strength springs and once you have overcome these by the simple expedient of shredding three fingers, you are invariably faced with a second flap of even greater ferocity. Anything as flimsy as a Yellow Pages calling-card is liable to end up contaminated and blood-stained in the innards of the machine. Surely no more effective device for keeping letters out of a house was ever conceived.

Then there is the "glazed porchway", as estate agents call it. Nothing wrong with this in itself, and very useful for ripening tiny green tomatoes, but you would be amazed how many people equip their glazed porchways with a Yale lock but no letter-box, no knocker, no bell. There is the long driveway, too, rightly accused among the door-to-door classes for its doubling of time and effort. Why will the British not adopt the American-style mail box?

There are the security-conscious blocks of flats where you have to stab 10 buttons in turn before eventually a voice crackles out of the grille and you have a split-second to shove the door open.

I shall view the postman with increased sympathy and respect from now on. Yet, for all its hardships, there is something to be said for the door-to-door life, if only as sociological ground-work. I thought at least I knew my own suburb but I found it to be a demographic jigsaw of quite extraordinary complexity and variety, with almost every social class and income level represented, all rubbing shoulders with each other.

Within one small street you find houses semi-detached, others with front gardens given over to car-breaking and mud-pie manufacture, others immaculate in fresh paint, "coach lamps" and Hoovered greenery. The ingrained individualism of the English is most apparent in what appear to be the most regimented streetscapes but where no two of anything are ever, in fact, the same.

The moment of supreme felicity, however, is when you press an ordinary-looking doorbell and are serenaded with the opening bars of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, *The Stars and Stripes* or the *Ode to Joy* (arr. Strickhausen). Suddenly it all seems worth while - the aching feet (if only your fingers could do the walking), the semi-dislocated arms, the soggy shoes, the tedium.

It may be too much work for too little money - but you do see life.

Rioja and Christmas

At Christmas the tradition is of course Roast Turkey, but many choose Goose, Chicken, Duck, Beef or Game. Whatever the fayne, hot or cold, drink a delicious Rioja wine, a velvety red or a dry fruity white. Don't forget those working in the kitchen! A glass of Rioja whilst preparing the family feast is always appreciated. Explore the wonderful wines of Rioja and find a quality and value that is unequalled.

Look for the little stamp... The hallmark of excellence.

For further information please contact The Rioja Wine Information Centre, Vinos de España, 25 Manchester Square, London W1. Tel 01-435 6140

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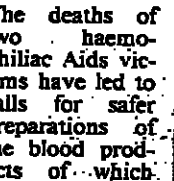
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The vital factor



The deaths of two haemophilic Aids victims have led to calls for safer preparations of the blood products of which haemophiliacs rely. Why not just stop using factor VIII? The difficulty is that haemophilia is a life-threatening condition in itself.

The disease results from a genetic defect carried by women but affecting men. It leaves the sufferer with reduced levels of the vital blood clotting factor, factor VIII, and in severe cases the lack of factor VIII can lead to severe spontaneous bleeding into the joints and soft tissues.

The consequences can be devastating. The average haemophilic bleed, 35 times a year and affected children may bleed several times a week. Bleeding into the joints - most often the knee or elbow - causes inflammation and destroys the cartilage at the end of the bone.

The development of factor VIII concentrates changed all that. Now haemophiliacs can inject factor VIII into themselves to stop bleeding.

At a recent meeting of the Association of Clinical Pathologists in Paris, Dr. Jones, from Newcastle's Haemophilia Centre, told how 15 years ago a severe bleed into a joint would have meant three weeks in hospital.

Dr Jones could only conclude that the risks of not taking factor VIII still outweigh the risk of contracting Aids. He recommended, as does the Haemophilia Society, that haemophiliacs continue to use the factor.

Even so doctors are trying to minimize the risk of Aids. Children under four now receive cryoprecipitate instead of factor VIII. This is made from the blood of fewer donors and is less likely to be contaminated.

MEDICAL BRIEFING



Christmas tradition: but treat trees with care

Pretty but dangerous

An eye specialist has warned of an unexpected seasonal hazard - injuries from Christmas trees. Mr. John Brazier, of Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, wrote in last week's *Lancet* of 15 patients treated in the hospital's casualty department between December 1983 and February 1984.

All but two patients were hurt by real trees. The most common damage was a scratch to the surface of the eye, the cornea, caused by a branch. One man was injured taking his tree from a car, seven were either putting the trees in pots or decorating them, and four were taking them down. Most victims' treatment was straightforward and their eyes healed well.

Two patients had recurrent problems - quite common after scratches from plants or fingernails. The symptoms of recurrent erosion of the corneal epithelium - which may continue periodically over months or years - include blurred vision, pain, redness, watering and aching when looking at light. These symptoms usually occur in the morning and can be treated with creams last thing at night.

So if you are involved in a fracas with your tree this year, Mr. Brazier's advice is to do nothing for an hour or so. Even if your eye waters and feels sore do not wash it with anything but leave your tears to flush out any foreign body that may have lodged there. Most trivial injuries heal themselves.

If the pain and watering continue for more than a couple of hours go to a casualty department where you will be examined and probably given an antibiotic ointment.

Hangovers are a more predictable Christmas hazard - and there is no cure. Drinking slowly, making sure you eat as well as drink, and taking plenty of water after a party go some way towards preventing one, but too much smoke and too little sleep can make matters worse.

In general, alcohol will burn up at the rate of an hour for every unit drunk (a unit is one half pint of beer, a glass of wine or a pub measure of spirits).

Stick to dry white wine if you want to avoid a hangover, and steer clear of brandy and cognac. Extra constituents which give flavour and colour to these heavier drinks can be toxic in large quantities. They are broken down in a different way to alcohol and are often responsible for the worst hangovers.

Abstinence had to be banned in the last century in France because one of the main ingredients - oil of thujone - was too poisonous. You can be sure that a glass or more of that would have been felt the next morning.

underestimate the problem. Dr. Eric Taylor of the Institute of Psychiatry believes one in 200 may suffer.

In the US there are about half a million children - five per cent taking drugs.

In less extreme cases hyperactivity may say more about what parents can tolerate: a problem for one family may be perfectly acceptable to another. Difficulties may be first recognised when a nursery teacher tells parents their child is too boisterous and disruptive for other children.

Some children may calm down if not over-stimulated. Bedrooms can be painted in subdued colours, for example. Others may benefit from rewards for concentrating on a task. It is thought some children benefit from a reduction in artificial colouring and food additives in their diet.

Spot the cure



Skin specialists now believe all acne sufferers can be offered some improvement - if not total cure. Only around 10 per cent of teenagers get through adolescence spot-free. A further 20 per cent develop the odd spot which doesn't worry them, and 40 per cent turn to the chemist's counter.

A number of factors contribute to the condition. The main cause is an over-reaction of the skin's sebaceous glands to male hormones circulating in the bloodstream (women have small amounts of these too). This produces an oily subum and the sebaceous gland ducts become thickened and blocked. Finally bacterial infection sets in, causing inflammation.

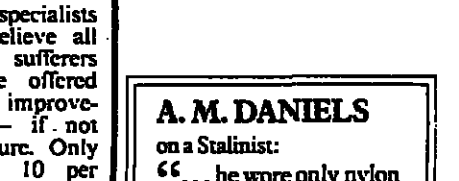
Often the teenager with a mild case of acne will suddenly find that his or her skin gets worse when they hit 16-18. In boys acne has usually burned itself out by the early 20s although some women it can grumble on into the 30s.

Mild cases may respond to topical preparations such as benzoyl peroxide, which can be bought at the chemist, or Retin A, for which a prescription is needed. Moderate to severe acne will need oral antibiotics, probably for around six months. Most people's complexion will be considerably improved after this, and although many will relapse, most teenagers will only need one or more long course of antibiotics (or possibly a low dose on antibiotics every day).

If the antibiotics don't work there are two alternatives. Girls can be given Diane, which blocks the effects of any circulating male hormones and which also acts as a contraceptive. Boys and girls can be given Roaccutane, which acts directly on the sebaceous glands and is 90 per cent successful.

Both preparations have potential side effects. Girls taking either preparation must not be or become pregnant. This is especially important for girls on Roaccutane which can cause, malformed babies.

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Calming down the children

Exhausted parents may claim, with an undercurrent of pride, that their five-year-old is "hyperactive" when in reality the offspring is very bright, energetic, unusually curious and plain naughty. However, hyperactivity can be serious. Children who are restless, find it impossible to concentrate for more than a few seconds and have difficulty learning at school may be diagnosed as suffering from hyperkinetic syndrome and require treatment with drugs. About one in 1,000 children are diagnosed in Britain although this may

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THE TIMES DIARY

From Grand to gracious

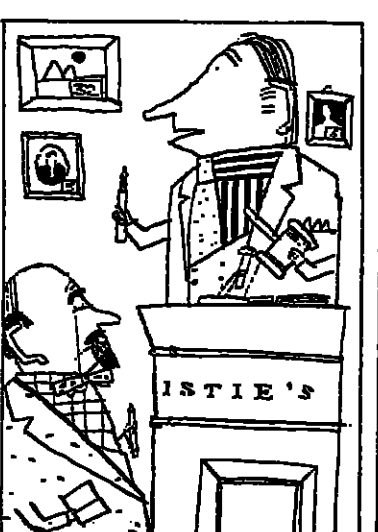
Leaked details of the security report into the Brighton bombing, now being drawn up by Hampshire's deputy chief constable, John Hoddinott, reveal that the Cabinet will never again be accommodated in a party conference HQ hotel. Instead, it will be recommended that the Cabinet be housed separately in a state home nearby. According to my source the Conservative Party could not afford to spend up the Cabinet. "It would probably cost about £100,000 to go into the hotel about four days in advance and strip all the wall paneling and lift floorboards." Security was very strong during Heath's term in the early Seventies, but I understand it was toned down because of his objection to the heavy presence of police dogs, horses, uniformed officers and marked police cars.

● Mrs Thatcher must be looking forward to Christmas. She told members of the Commons aviation committee what she plans to read - not a novel, but a biography, but the nine-volume, 2,600-page report on London's third airport.

Klein wonder

Although punters claim the Royal dress designers David and Elizabeth Emanuel are favourites for the job of designing the new British Airways uniforms, I happen to know it will be Roland Klein. When the name of French-born Roland Klein is announced after Christmas the one man who should button up is Sir Terence Conran, the Habitat-Mothercare chief who berated British Airways for appointing a foreign firm to design its new aircraft livery. Sir Terence may not know that his son Jasper Conran was approached to submit his uniform designs - and politely told BA to get lost.

BARRY FANTONI



"Lot 38: one unique striped pine dresser by Sir Terence Conran, purchased on a Sunday"

One in the eye

Mrs Thatcher's eye surgeon Richard Packard was sent on a fly to Union Carbide last week to fly to Bhopal in India to attend to the victims of the gas disaster. Packard was only too keen. He rearranged his appointments and brought forward an operation scheduled for this week. Bags packed, he suddenly received a call saying Union Carbide had changed their minds - they wanted an all-American team instead. Also left in the lurch were five other eminent British surgeons, including King's College lung specialist John Costello, who was busy packaging a drugs consortium for the victims when he was told to forget it. As bemused as anyone was Peter Veezy, London agent of Union Carbide's relief agency, SOS International, who had been in the city for a day and a half, and had been booked the flights. "Union Carbide were running around like chickens with their heads cut off," he said. "They probably thought they had more control over their own people." His bill, together with the British consultants', is on its way to the US.

Airport runaway

Questions are to be asked in the Commons on why an international airport built on the tiny Caribbean island of Providenciales two years ago at a cost of £6.1m to the British taxpayer has closed to jets. The runway has to be rescaled, at a further cost of more than £250,000, because, according to Norman Saunders, chief minister of the British dependency, "the British government built it on the cheap." Adding to the government's embarrassment, the Club Med terrace village for which the airport was built is opening only next week, two years late. Indeed, the French-owned Club Med had to be threatened with legal action by Timothy Ralston before it started building. "It is staggering that the airport has already closed to jets before the Club Med has even opened," said Labour MP Eric Deakin, who is to lodge a Commons question and demand an inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee. The closure of the airport will give further ammunition to critics of the project who, when they accused the Government of "fiddling the figures", were told by the Foreign Office that original estimates had risen £2m because of the fall in the pound "and a runway surfacing problem".

PHS

Jobs: let's follow Reagan's lead

by Graham Mather

The United States has a number of features which British ministers would like to emulate. It has an entrenched free enterprise culture. It has in President Reagan a populist and successful leader, of a Republican Party bursting with grass-roots enthusiasm, firmly committed to radical economic policies.

Above all, it has jobs. The US Chamber of Commerce has said that since the third instalment of President Reagan's tax cuts, following his 1981 Economic Recovery Act, the US economy has generated 64 million new jobs: 880,000 in May alone. Last month, with slower growth, the number rose by another 300,000.

British business has been investing heavily in the acquisition of US subsidiaries. A common language, similar commercial law and confidence in long-term economic performance are in part responsible. But British businessmen have also shown an increasing readiness to emulate US business practice: in performance-related pay systems, strengthened employee involvement and participation, and company unions.

So it is surprising that Whitehall finds itself much more reluctant to learn from US experience. Mrs Thatcher's Atlanticism, expressed at this year's Conservative conference when she declared to considerable applause that "this party is pro-American", does not find much of an echo in departmental corridors. Successful Ameri-

cans can be unpopular. The IMF's heavy-handed interventions to retrieve the British economy in the 1970s are well remembered by civil servants.

In British domestic policy-making there are few enough structures to facilitate detailed comparison and evaluation of EEC, let alone American, initiatives. It serves little in political terms to remind constituents that the same reviews of welfare spending, the same re-examination of demographic trends and tax burdens, even the same moves away from branded drugs on prescription, are being undertaken in one industrialized democracy after another.

Yet American examples can prove highly helpful. US "right to work" states offer model legal frameworks which proved invaluable in reworking British trade union law. US counties and municipalities have privatized and contracted out services for years and have produced what they would call "bug-free" systems.

With strongly felt concern about unemployment among both businessmen and Conservative backbenchers, the imperative to learn from US job creation experience is becoming stronger. At the same time, the evidence that the Reagan boom has not been a cynical neo-Keynesian reflation is growing. The 1981 US tax cuts have broadened the

tax base, stimulated business investment and led to a surge in venture capital investment, up in 1983 by 56 per cent over 1982.

President Reagan's firm refusal to contemplate tax increases as a means of reducing the budget deficit proved an election winner against a Mondale package which closely resembled that of some Conservative wets: higher spending, increased taxation and federal job creation schemes. More importantly, the Reagan tax-cutting policy has mobilized an unprecedented consensus behind the reductions of scores of federal spending programmes now proposed. Debate in the US today focuses on the details of implementation rather than the need for the savings.

US tax cuts have been seen to create jobs and prove a powerful election winner. Spending cuts are now seen as inevitable to maintain the progress. As Nigel Lawson faces backbench pressure to increase spending in the name of job creation, the US lessons may prove helpful, and may encourage an increased propensity in Whitehall to turn its eyes towards what is, after all, the world's clearest model of an enterprise economy.

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The author is head of the policy unit of the Institute of Directors.

Whither Mitterrand? Diana Geddes on the search for new ideas

Paris With only 15 months to go before the parliamentary elections, the French Socialist Party is desperately looking for a new purpose and direction for its badly demoralized troops. At the party's national convention in Paris this weekend its leaders will seek to launch a new offensive around the theme of "modernization and social progress". But there are doubts whether it is a slogan to set the nation on fire.

One problem is that the Socialists have simply run out of projects. They did a lot when they first came to power - abolishing the death penalty; introducing a 39-hour week and a fifth week's paid holiday; increasing social security benefits, pensions and the minimum wage; setting decentralization in process; nationalizing the banks and key industrial companies; introducing new rights for workers; providing free abortion.

Now they no longer have a grand, specifically socialist, project around which to rally their supporters. The party leaders say the economic crisis leaves them little room for manoeuvre, but some people think that is simply an excuse to cover up a dearth of new ideas, or even an indication of a fundamental and permanent shift of the party away from its socialist goals.

Gone forever are the heady days after the Socialists' landslide victory in 1981 when heads would roll and a glorious era of social justice and happiness for all was to be ushered in. People really did believe that life would be markedly different; hence their feelings now of betrayal and bitterness. The disillusionment would still have been there, only less deep, had there been no economic recession.

Expectations in 1981 were exaggeratedly high among the party faithful as well. "We had little real experience of power and therefore too great a degree of self-illusion," Lionel Jospin, the party's first secretary, admitted recently. Most Socialists now accept the need for the Government's new economic pragmatism but dislike intensely many of its effects, and differ deeply over its desired duration and ultimate aim.

Some see the present period of economic rigour as simply an unpleasant stage which must be passed through as quickly as possible before getting back to the real business of socializing society and completing the break with capitalism. Others, however, believe that rigour and the shift in Socialist attitudes is more or less here to stay. There is a growing realization that changing society will necessarily be a slow process. Asked recently if the French Socialists were turning into social democrats, Jean Poperen, the number two in the party, said: "If one means by social democracy that we reject the theory of revolutionary change, that we believe that change in a society as complex as ours has to be by regular stages and that this implies a long period of mixed economy, then we are indeed social democrats."

President Mitterrand has also recently been emphasizing the need for a long-term view. "The man who plants a tree in the hope of one day lying in it, his shade must have patience," he commented in a magazine interview last month.



C'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas le socialisme

"My socialism," he explained, "is quite simple: the search for a true political, economic and social democracy. This means more freedom, more responsibility and more knowledge for everyone; the control by the nation of the great means of production; a just distribution of profits; an unshakeable national solidarity; and the end of class privileges." That was more the kind of ideological stuff many party faithful wanted to hear. But was it all just talk?

What is the government doing, for example, to eradicate the scandal of the so-called *nouveaux pauvres*, those for whom the state has failed to provide any form of financial safety net and who therefore literally find themselves without a roof over their head or a bite to eat? Why is the government cutting corporate and income tax instead of helping them? Is that what was meant by the just distribution of profits? Can the new emphasis on competition and selection in education really help hasten the end of class privilege?

Worst of all, why is nothing more being done to prevent what the government itself has referred to as the scourge of unemployment? The Socialists came to power promising to reduce unemployment, but the number out of work has gone up by more than 500,000 and continues to rise at an alarming rate. Industrial modernization, the government's new catch-word, is widely seen as synonymous with mass redundancies rather than new jobs.

So what hope can the Socialists offer to their supporters and to the country as a whole? "We are not going to re-do the nationalization, decentralization or Auroux (labour

laws every year simply out of principle. We cannot storm the Bastille all the time," Laurent Fabius, the prime minister, commented last month. Instead, he proposed a brand of socialism which lay somewhere between a totally free market and a state-controlled economy.

"We must modernize industrial plant, develop dialogue and innovation between the employers and the unions, link schools and industry, support research, free initiative, accelerate the growth of a technological Europe," he said. But where was the socialism in all of that? Why should not the right be able to do the same, only better, with its years of experience in government and its close relations with employers?

Platitudes about greater social justice and a fairer distribution of goods are not enough: people want acts, not words. Confidence in the Socialists' ability to tackle the country's problems has fallen to a record low. The debacle over Chad, and now the uneasy situation in New Caledonia, has not helped. The flurry of excitement caused in the summer by the appointment of a new young prime minister is already wearing off.

The left has suffered one electoral defeat after another since it came to power. Its 14-point lead over the right in the 1981 parliamentary elections has now been turned into a 20-point lead for the opposition. The Socialists themselves (without the Communists and other minor left-wing parties) obtained only 20 per cent of the vote in the European elections this summer, their lowest level since 1973. Virtually every

weekend brings news of a new humiliation in some local by-election. The Socialists are now steeling themselves for another drubbing in the cantonal elections next March.

Some Socialists are beginning to talk openly for the first time about the possibility of losing the parliamentary elections in 1986. It was not appreciated when M. Jospin commented in a recent interview with *Le Monde*: "I tell our members that they should not worry about 1986. You can always be beaten in a democracy. Let us continue to do what we believe to be just, and pursue a policy with a perspective beyond 1986." M. Jospin has since smartly changed his tack.

Not all Socialists believe that defeat is inevitable, however. They point out that if their ranks are in disarray, so are those of the opposition. Furthermore, they say, the opposition can propose no more palatable a medicine to cure the nation's economic ills. They cling to the hope that when confronted by a real change of government rather than a local or European election, the electorate will not indulge in an abstention or protest vote, but will vote to keep the right out of power.

Despite their party's poor ratings in the opinion polls, three Socialists, Michel Rocard, minister of agriculture, Laurent Fabius and Jacques Delors, the former finance minister, all rate higher in the popularity stakes than the three main opposition leaders, Chirac, Barre and Giscard d'Estaing.

Other Socialists try to keep up their spirits with the hope that, given the introduction of a good dose of proportional representation, an amount of luck, the Socialists could still find themselves the largest single party in parliament, and as such in a position to form a coalition with one or more of the other parties on the centre right. For the moment, however, even the most tentative overtures in that direction are being rejected out of hand. What happens after 1986 remains an open door.

The field trials will last two years with national implementation, if they are judged a success, not before 1987. But so far the signs are all favourable. As David Roberts, a member of the Law Society steering committee, puts it, taping may increase a guilty plea rate (and hence cut the Crown court backlog) and reduce the number of complaints against police. Above all it could outlaw oppressive questioning, imposing on courts a more robust role in deciding if interviews were so conducted as to render them inadmissible as evidence.

Frances Gibb

Legal affairs correspondent

David Watt

Six shots across the hawks' prow

A most remarkable war of words is now in progress between the American Secretary of State George Shultz and his colleague - and rival - Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence. It is well worth watching, not only because the arguments themselves are important, but because the debate represents an institutional as well as a personal struggle over the direction of American foreign policy in Reagan's second term.

Let us take up the story on November 28, when Mr Weinberger made a major speech in the most public possible forum - the National Press Club in Washington. It was, in a way, a surprising pronouncement from a man whose reputation has been for hawkishness. For a horn of a certain amount of ritual nonsense about President Reagan's strong decisive leadership, it amounted to a powerful plea for a much more limited and precise use of American military power than most post-war American administrations, not least Reagan's, have envisaged. Threatened and unexpectedly attacked the out and out minimalists - those, as he says, who "while they may maintain that military force has a role in foreign policy are never willing to name the circumstances or the place where it would apply". His counterbalance to this assault on neo-isolationism is more significant and unexpected. The second alternative - employing our forces almost indiscriminately and as a regular and customary part of our diplomatic efforts - would surely plunge us headlong into the sort of domestic turmoil we experienced during the Vietnam War, without accomplishing the goal for which we committed our forces. Such policies might very well tear at the fabric of our society, endangering the single most critical element of a successful democracy: a strong consensus of support and agreement for our basic purposes.

Having set these limits, Weinberger then proceeds to lay down six criteria to be applied before American combat forces are used:

1. The engagement must be vital to American interests.
2. The US must be willing to commit the troops wholeheartedly and with the clear intention of "winning".
3. The engagement must have clearly defined political and military objectives.
4. The relationship of objectives to the size and composition of the force must be continuously reassessed.
5. There must be "some reasonable assurance" at all stages that Congress and the American people are behind the operation.
6. The commitment of US troops should be a last resort.

This declaration may seem to Europeans an unexceptionable restatement of Clausewitzian principles. In the context of what the right-wing columnist William Safire has called "the fight for Ronald Reagan's strategic soul", however, it carried a barely coded declaration of war on Mr Shultz, and so immediately put the cat among the Washington pigeons. The key to the code, like so

much else in American foreign policy, lies in the word "Israel". To oversimplify matters, Mr Shultz is pro-Israeli and Mr Weinberger leans towards the Arabs. Mr Shultz was in favour of the US presence in the Lebanon and was closely associated in the public mind with the debate there. Mr Weinberger was more sceptical and kept his nose clean.

Mr Shultz appeared in a stall-clip before a Jewish audience in New York at the end of the election campaign and proceeded to read them a heartening lecture on the need for the US to adopt a much more active, retaliatory and even preemptive campaign against international terrorism. Mr Weinberger thinks Mr Shultz was making a dangerous fool of himself.

Armed with this crib, it is possible to translate the speech roughly as follows: "Let's cut out all this talk about preemptive strikes and unspecified military crusades against the immorality of terrorism. It may be good for a few Jewish votes but the American people will quite rightly refuse to back the long-term consequences. This kind of loose thinking got us into Vietnam and it got us into the Lebanon - neither of which enterprises would have passed my test list. Central America might, in future, satisfy the criteria if things get bad enough, but if we do go in it will have to be a quick all-out strike like Grenada, not a creeping, surreptitious, incremental affair." This plain version will indicate why the right has been showering imprecations on Mr Weinberger ever since he spoke. The ferociously pro-Zionist Mr Safire, for instance, has accused him of wanting "fun only" wars; of moral blindness; and of proclaiming, on behalf of a demoralized and incompetent military, a concept of "vital interest" suitable for Switzerland and a doctrine of "don't-call-us-until-you're-prepared-to-oblige-us".

Mr Shultz himself has now returned to the charge. At another Jewish gathering (at Yeshiva University in New York) last Sunday, he repeated his thesis that the threat of force must be an integral part of American diplomacy and indirectly attacked Mr Weinberger: at the politically most vulnerable point of his argument - the question of popular support. "When the US acts according to its principles, and within the realistic limits of its power," said Mr Shultz, "we will be able to count on the full support of the American people." In other words, Mr Weinberger is insulting the American people by suggesting they are yellow. And he ought to be ashamed of himself.

This is all clean fun - all the more so since each of the protagonists is cast in an unaccustomed and uncomfortable role. Nevertheless the row is an interesting indication of the ferment that is going on in American foreign policy.

The substance of these changes will have to be discussed in another column, but they are an encouraging sign, entirely appropriate to this strange, slack weeks between Reagan's first term and the next.

Philip Howard

Hard cheese on Zummerz

The Trobriand Islanders got it right about food. According to Bronislaw Malinowski, the pioneer functionalist anthropologist, these Argonauts of the Western Pacific have no inhibitions about sex, but are extraordinarily bashful about the dangerous art of eating. So they copulate in public but eat furtively, in private.

Of course that was 70 years ago. And Malinowski's credibility as a witness has been damaged by the publication of his indiscreet diary. But to be alarmed by the whole business of cooking and eating is a sound approach. *Pace* gastronomes from Brillat-Savarin to B. Levin, to pretend that food is an art, or even a high art, is pretentious. *La nouvelle cuisine* is vegetables arranged to look like something other than vegetables on a side-plate, small helpings, a big bill, and long boring descriptions of what you are going to eat from the menu, or worse the proprietor.

Ordering what to eat in a restaurant makes the Trobriand Islanders among us hesitate like one o'clock half struck. Prawns would be nice, if you did not have to undress them, and see those reproachful beady eyes staring at you. What on earth or under the sea is Ceviche? Could anybody eat hot Roquefort with marmalade and pears? The stomach whimpers apprehensively. And one ends up wishing that one had ordered what the others did.

I hardly notice what I am eating, unless it stares at me. In a pompous restaurant the other day, for a high policy discussion with a colleague who takes his food seriously, I ordered wild duck, not from any urgent conviction but from the necessity to say something. The menu drolled on for several paragraphs about the pinkness of the duck, the succulence of the damsons with which it was garnished, the wildness of the accompanying rice, etc. ad nauseam.

The food arrived, and we fell to eating, talking, and having a good time. When we had just about finished, my colleague stared at my plate in horror and asked: "Are you sure that you got your wild duck?" I looked, and there was a piece of blackish meat in sticky brown sauce left on my plate. The waitress was horrified too. She had brought me the venison in sticky sauce, by mistake. She was very keen to bring me the wild duck I had ordered to

replace the venison I had not ordered. When I protested that I had had quite enough to eat, and that wild duck and venison were all birds of the same feather to me, my stock fell throughout the restaurant, which was listening agog.

Simple food is best. Here with a Leaf of Bread beneath the bough, a Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse, and Thou, Beside me singing in the Wilderness. That's about right, old boy; though it does depend on who Thou is and what she is singing. Anything from *The Sound of Music* gets a red card right away. But I could live quite happily on a diet of bread, cheese, apples, nuts, and the occasional As its name implies.

And for the cheese, I do not want any of your elaborately decaying and oozing cheeses. A piece of Gruyère, Emmenthal, or strong, farmhouse Cheddar with a kick like a cow will do nicely. They call such apotheosis of milk "Tasty" in the market. I detest it and doubtless in other parts of the West Country; and tasty it is. I had always taken it as an axiom that your true Cheddar came only from Somerset; and that Cheddar from other parts of the world was merely soap masquerading as cheese.

I am taken aback to learn that I have got this wrong from the biggest cheese I know, my friend Rupert Cooper, founder and managing director of the Campbellwells Creamery. As its name implies, it draws its milk from a long way north of Cheddar. Kintyre, as far north as Oban and Inverary, and including the island of Gigha. It has one of the most modern cheese-making plants in Europe, and makes a lot of the stuff.

I have always taken the view that Scottish cheese is like Dutch cheese: inoffensive but a bit insipid. Rupert Cooper now tells me that the strong bit of Tasty that I like is in fact in the last stages of decomposition. Fiddle-faddle, I said. But his damned Campbellwells Creamery, and its Cheesemaker George McSpornan (I did not make that up) have just won the championship for the best cheese at the Scottish Cheese Show with their Campbellwells Cheddar Cheese. This was in the teeth of competition from 89 other Cheddar cheese producers from all over Europe, including Somerset. I am clearly going to have to revise my opinions about cheese, as about other things. One grows up by eating one's opinions.

On the question of lorry...
The Secretary of State...
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The metropolitan counties

MARCH
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Ten years ago the metropolitan counties were seen as a means to the ends of increasing efficiency, and democracy, in local government. As control of those conurbations is due — on March 31, 1986 — to pass to new authorities, this Special Report examines the new ends in view, and asks what the new aims are. It has been compiled by David Walker and Hugh Clayton, who present and examine the arguments for and against abolition; and includes advertisements from those most involved with abolition.

"Unless local government is organized to meet the needs of the future, and in particular is organized in units large enough to match the technical and administrative requirements of the services which it administers, its powers must diminish, and with it the power of local democracy."

This is evidently not the voice of Mrs Thatcher, although the statement goes on to specify a need for radical change. "And only if such change occurs, and local government is organized in strong units with power to take major decisions, will present trends toward centralization be reversed, and local democracy secure its place as a major part of our democratic system."

These sentences come from a long-forgotten white paper, a historic milestone on the never-ending road to local government reform. Produced by the Wilson government in 1970, *Reform of Local Government in England* (Cmd 4276) embodied the results of Lord Redcliffe-Maud's exhaustive surveys. Big, in those days, was

beautiful. Size, it was thought, made for efficiency. Conurbation-wide authorities, metro counties were prescribed.

Fifteen years on, those orthodoxies are challenged. Mrs Thatcher's government says size makes for inefficiency, that conurbation-wide councils are grandiose and futile. The measure to abolish the metropolitan counties is presented as a cleansing, simplifying statute. Kenneth Baker, the Local Government Minister, appears a good Bourbon: he wants to turn the clock back to the era before ministers and councillors were infatuated with size.

And yet. The abolition measure itself contains new orthodoxies. It reeks of the belief that the civil servant in Whitehall knows best. Meanwhile, the Home Office, believers still in the old orthodoxy about big units of administration, has insisted that the police and fire services continue to be organized on the large scale. Under the abolition plan the names and the composition of police and fire authorities will change but the boundaries and structure will continue. Ditto the Department of Transport and the passenger transport authorities.

If the Government has its way, the history of six metropolitan county councils will appear a botched experiment that lasted for only a decade.

Yet only the most sanguine supporter of the abolition plans could have any faith that the arrangements now being considered by Parliament will last. The Local Government (1984) Bill itself provides in one section after another for future tinkering in case the post-abolition arrangements do not work out. The local government scheme in the metropolitan counties after 1986 will be unstable.

It will be unstable because the issues pondered at such length in the 1960s by Lord Redcliffe-Maud and the other Royal Commissioners have not gone away. You cannot, argues John Gunnell, the Labour leader of West Yorkshire, fly in the face of socio-economic realities which bind the metropolitan counties together.

"Here in West Yorkshire," he says, "the cities of Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield share a common heritage derived from the growth of the wool-textile industry. Wakefield and Leeds, too, owe much of their early growth to wool textiles. To

deny the underlying economic interdependence that makes a unity of each metropolitan county is to deny a reality that is confirmed each day in inter-firm relations and journey-to-work movements within the metropolitan areas."

Mr Gunnell here articulates perhaps the deepest strain in thinking about how local government should be organized in the urban areas of Britain — that there are "natural" geographical boundaries which local government reform, if it is to work, must observe.

Since, before the end of the nineteenth century, observers of

the boroughs and the city councils bemoaned the population. One of the triumphs of the Chamberlain era in governing Birmingham was the re-drawing of the city's boundaries to take in outlying areas connected with the centre by economics and social relationships but excluded from municipal arrangements.

But, 60 years later, the further dispersal of population made the problem acute, even for Birmingham. The Local Government Commission for England reviewing the West Midlands area in 1961 found "the county boroughs, rep-

resenting the main urban centres, are losing population to the peripheral areas... As a result, the county boroughs, as well as other authorities in the heart of the conurbation, are beginning to lose variety in the social and economic government and reduces the supply of voluntary leadership of all kinds."

In the period up to the 1960s local government had been changing in response to such criticism. Territory and people had been transferred from the jurisdiction of the shire counties to that of the city authorities — called county boroughs. Politics

obtruded. The movement of people to suburbs in the shire counties around the urban areas benefitted the Conservatives; the containment of the county boroughs was often in the Conservative interest.

By 1960 there was a widespread if incoherent feeling in favour of local government reform for the conurbations. Professor William Robson of the London School of Economics spoke for many in saying "nowhere do the local authorities correspond to the social, economic and political realities of the area... If a proper system of metropolitan govern-

ment were introduced, the Alderly Edge would become part of the Greater Manchester, to which they belong. Academics like him addressed themselves to rationalist blueprints of a reformed system, many of them recommending conurbation-wide councils.

Parliament had not been entirely inert. The Macmillan government focused first on the problems of government in London, setting up, in 1957, a royal commission under Sir Edwin Herbert. In 1958 it established wide-ranging commissions to look at the "special review areas": Tyneside, East Yorkshire, South East Lancashire, Merseyside and the West Midlands.

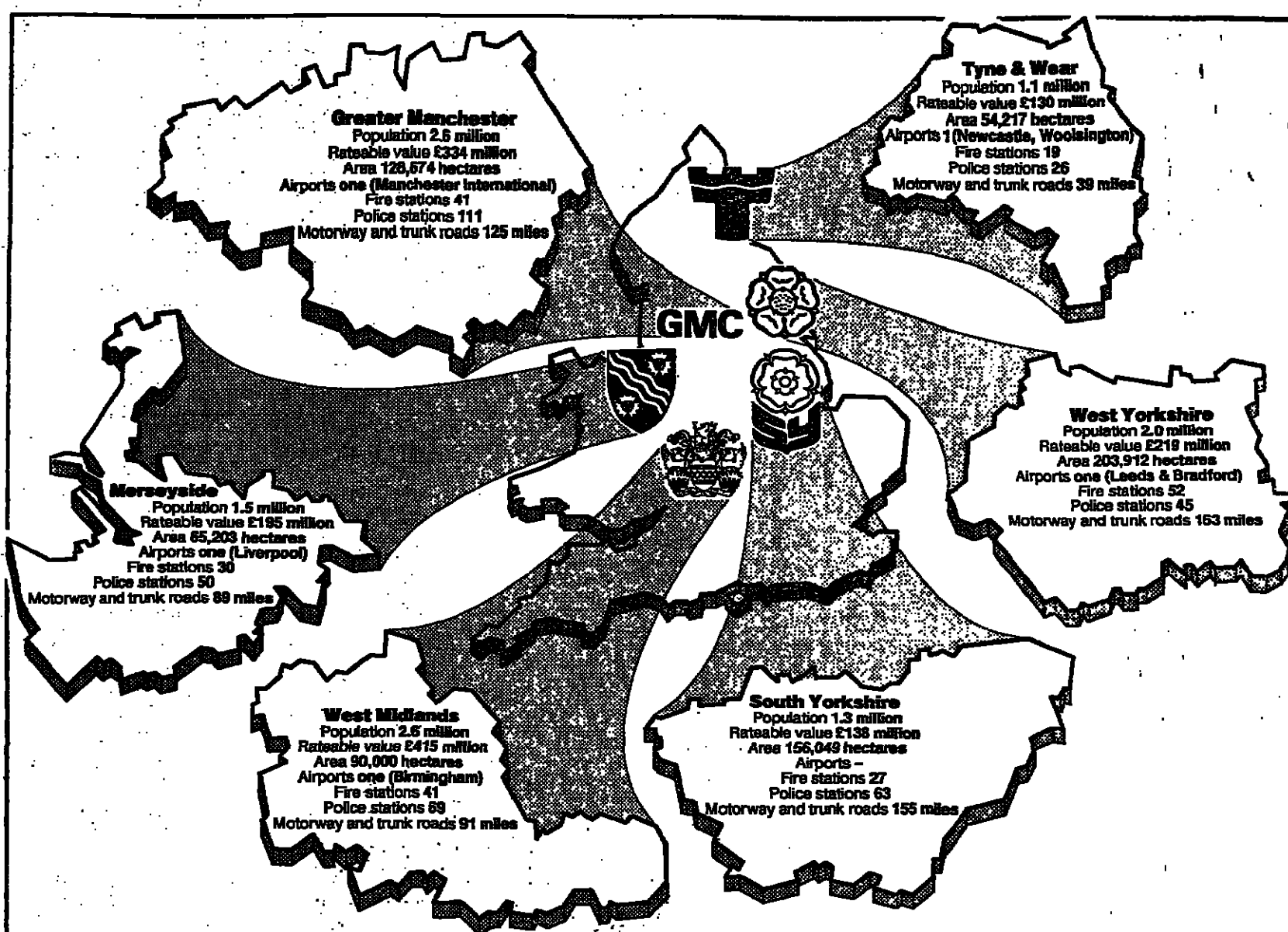
With hindsight, we might now wonder if these commissions could, by making specific recommendations for boundary changes, have avoided the grandiosity and delay of the Redcliffe-Maud exercise.

The commissions' work is best exemplified by the short-lived creation of a Borough of Teesside by absorption of the county borough of Middlesbrough, a neat solution to the problem of matching council boundaries and socio-economic change along the River Tees; it would be a brave politician who argued that the present-day county of Cleveland makes more sense.

Instead, when Labour took office in 1964 the new minister for housing and local government, Richard Crossman, opted for a giant reform, an exercise by its very nature costly and unlikely to be implemented unless it won cross-party support.

As it turned out, Labour lost the 1970 election. Its White Paper died the death and only parts of the Redcliffe-Maud reform package survived to appear in the Heath government's own White Paper and 1972 local Government Act. Redcliffe-Maud — the Royal Commission on Local Government in England which reported in 1969 — placed at the centre of

Continued on next page



David Hart



AGAINST ABOLITION
John Gunnell, the leader of West Yorkshire County Council, fighting for a last-minute reprieve

ADVERTISEMENT

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Yet inexplicably, its towns and cities and their 2.6 million people face an unprecedented threat from the least expected of quarters — Central Government. Less than 10 years after asking Greater Manchester Council to establish the complex framework needed to stabilise and strengthen this key region, the same Government now plans to scrap the GMC, assuming for itself most of the strategic responsibilities and spending powers.

Secretary of State Patrick Jenkin believes Westminster and Whitehall are better placed to assess and provide for the needs of Greater Manchester. He also thinks they can provide a wide range of services more effectively, more efficiently and more cheaply.

Hardly anyone seems to share his view. Not even respected independent bodies like Coopers and Lybrand Associates, the internationally-renowned financial consultants who say: "The Government's claim for substantial savings are not supported by our analysis... We conclude there are unlikely to be any net savings as a result of the Government's proposed changes, and that there could be significant extra costs."

Before you make up your mind about GMC's value to the County, you might ask Patrick Jenkin these questions. In the process, you might discover why GMC, for one, thinks he's hopelessly wrong...

Will the Government speak up for Greater Manchester?

The County Council is an effective economic voice for a united Greater Manchester. GMC has led the county into a new era by its own policies, skills, initiatives and determination — and without a flow of Whitehall handouts.

It has used its powerful voice well. And wisely, attracting nearly £50 million in EEC and central Government grants for the

economic and social benefit of the County. And enterprisingly, harnessing its resources with those of leading research institutes like UMIST to pioneer breakthroughs in technology — such as its current projects for converting waste products into fuel. And confidently, pioneering major capital schemes to create economic growth and social improvements.

Ironically, achievements by self-help attract scant interest from Government. Which is sad, because Westminster has little idea of the innovative policies and projects it plans to inherit or abandon. And disturbing, because Whitehall has even less idea or experience of maintaining extensive economic frameworks so carefully nurtured to success by the GMC during the last decade.

Will the Government create new jobs and invest in local industry?

GMC's economic determination has launched schemes like Operation Jobs Boost and the vital Lifestart apprenticeship schemes, creating thousands of new jobs. The same determination: is providing millions of pounds worth of venture capital — through the local authorities' pension funds — for bright successful companies to consolidate or expand. Currently, more than £13 million is being ploughed directly into new economic development, and job creation projects.

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More than £20 million is being spent on major inner city regeneration schemes such as the unique public — private sector partnership venture to transform Manchester's derelict Central Station site into the North West's most important exhibition and events centre, and the exciting conversion of another redundant city centre railway station to become Europe's finest science and industry museum.

Will the Government protect public transport and communication?

Greater Manchester has developed second-to-none communications networks, with more motorways than any other county, extensive trunk road improvement schemes, and a substantial public transport investment programme to further enhance the work and leisure mobility of two and a half million people.

Special help for the young and the old through countywide concessionary fares, a three year freeze on bus fares, sensible development of Manchester International Airport to consolidate its position as Britain's preferred third airport and the streamlining of highways plans to save millions of pounds in blight compensation (not to mention 20,000 valuable properties) are good examples of GMC's careful policymaking.

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Ten years ago, Greater Manchester had more derelict land than any other English county. Today it boasts the largest, most successful range of country park, river valley and urban land reclamation schemes in Britain. Since 1974, GMC has turned 3,000 eyesore acres into attractive urban countryside, planting 9 million trees in the process. Its current reclamation programme covers more than 100 sites and over 6,000 acres. No surprise perhaps that GMC's far-sighted approach to green belt protection has received nationwide commendation.

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Greater Manchester people take their work seriously. They also enjoy their leisure, which is why GMC does more than most to support cultural, arts and recreational development, in its desire to provide regional facilities that are accessible to everyone. Each year, GMC invests several million pounds in national and regional performing arts, protecting the county's heritage, improving peoples' lifestyle.

To protect Greater Manchester's ability to do today what others will struggle to achieve tomorrow, and to safeguard its crucial contribution to the nation's economy, the County must retain a strong voice. Without it, the nation as well as the County will be the poorer.

GMC
Greater Manchester Council

MAKING GREATER MANCHESTER GREATER

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

An exciting package?

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What seems to have happened in the early part of 1981 is that in the innermost recesses of Whitehall an implicit bargain was struck. To the cabinet committees set up to investigate abolition of the rates, Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, presented an alternative. Whitehall had, it knew, devoted many man-hours to finding an alternative to rates; the subject had been nuzzled over in detail by the Layfield Committee in the 1970s and since. There was no workable alternative that did not have insuperable political costs. Instead, Mr Heseltine suggested, why not a policy that looked exciting, made it appear that the Government was simplifying and slimming the structure of local government, and also diverted attention from rates. That policy was to abolish the Greater London Council and the metropolitan counties.

The metropolitan counties were, of course, something of an afterthought. Abolition of the GLC had been discussed within and without the Conservative Party for some time. Sir Horace Cutler had, Mr Heseltine knew, worked as leader of the GLC to dismantle parts of it; the rest would come easy. But dismantling the GLC alone looked odd. With the metropolitan counties it became a political package.

At this stage, however, abolition was merely a policy option, something with which the Department of the Environment could arm itself when berated by the Prime Minister for failing to find a solution to the rates conundrum. So it remained until a general election became imminent in early 1983. The Prime Minister, we know from confidential sources, agitated until the last minute for a rates platform in the manifesto. The one she got, the rates-limitation plan now embodied in the 1984 Rates Act, was a late starter. Abolition of the metropolitan counties was thrown into the manifesto to fill a gap.

At the last minute Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment from January until June 1983, began to work on the practical implications of abolition.

His place was taken by Mr Patrick Jenkin, a dutiful if unimaginative servant of the Prime Minister and the manifesto. The Conservative manifesto said: "The metropolitan councils have been shown to be a wasteful and unnecessary tier of government. We shall abolish them and return most of their functions to the boroughs and districts."

In October last year appeared *Streamlining the Cities*, the White Paper exposing for the first time the detail of the arrangements for replacing the counties.

It is worth teasing out the principles which the Government said it based its plan upon.

According to the White Paper they were:

- The temper of the 1980s, unlike the 1970s, was anti-size, dismayed by big organizations (such as the National Health Service and the Civil Service). In the 1980s small is beautiful.
- The purposes of the 1972 Local Government Act had been realized in the shire counties but not in the conurbations. The metro counties had failed to find a role. They had searched for a role but in so doing had trespassed on the responsibilities of the lower-tier districts.
- They spent more than they should.
- Abolition would save money without cutting services.
- Abolition would "provide a system which is simpler for the public to understand, in that responsibility for virtually all local services will rest with a single authority."

Streamlining the Cities was, the government averred, open for consultation, which was absorbed into a second version of the White Paper published last July. In a preamble Mr Jenkin bemoaned "misleading advertising" by the threatened county councils arguing that "abolition will mean the decentralization of powers to the local level and the end to an expensive and unnecessary two-tier system of local government."

By now it had become obvious that local government reform was the centrepiece of the social policy legislation of Mrs Thatcher's second term in office.

Late last month the Local Government Bill was published containing the substance of the abolition plan. The Government intends it to become law by next summer.

And is that an end to the metropolitan counties? The demographic pressures are now

very different from those which in the 1950s and 1960s pushed politicians towards big conurbation-wide authorities, the fashion of the 1980s dislikes "corporatism" of the kind espoused in the 1972 Local Government Act. Yet the motive forces of local-government reform, political, social, and economic, have not been stilled by the government's frenzy of activity on the local front; rather, they have been quickened.

In the recent J. R. James Memorial Lecture (James was formerly chief planner at the Environment Department) the geographer Peter Hall compellingly listed the factors making for change in the urban landscape. They carried, he argued, an eerie echo of the economic and social changes of another great decade of local government reforms, the 1880s.

which saw the creation of the London County Council and the county boroughs.

Look around, Professor Hall said, at the signs of urban decay. Perhaps the solution lay in dispersal, even acceleration of the population and migration trends seen in urban Britain in the post-war period that led to the New Towns and the overspill towns and the satellite estates.

Maybe. But Professor Hall's and most other versions of urban change will sooner or later necessitate a revision of local-government boundaries, perhaps even a re-creation of a conurbation-wide political authority whether it is to build houses or roads to permit the movement of people. If that day comes, the abolition of the metropolitan counties a decade after their creation will look like an expensive error.

A disinterested observer looking at the map of local government in 1979 when Margaret Thatcher came to power might have thought that the era of reform had indeed ended, that the map was settled for a generation.

With the exceptions of the Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles and of Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom was entirely covered by a two-tier system of local government. Yes, the creation of the metropolitan counties had been expensive. "Inheriting staff and equipment from as many as 33 authorities in 1974 was a nightmare in West Yorkshire," recalls John Gurnell, the county's labour leader.

Yes, there was sniping at the counties from the metropolitan districts, some still smarting at the loss of their all-purpose status as county boroughs; others (Sandwell, Sefton, Calderdale) still struggling to find an identity beyond the new structure of counties for their malaise.

But there was no inkling of

The reform that led to friction

the political storms to come. In 1979 indeed several of the metropolitan counties were Conservative (had been designed to go Conservative on an alternating cycle, cynical critics of the 1972 reorganization said). South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear were solid Labour, but politics in Merseyside and the West Midlands were more volatile.

On the face of it, the arrangements of 1972 - far from perfect - seemed to have answered the old yearning for conurbation-wide political authority even if under the 1972 Act the county councils' writ ran only in highly restricted areas.

Since 1974 when the new structure came into being there had been frictions. The metropolitan counties and the metro-

politan districts had quarrelled over the exact definition of their respective planning powers. Early on, several metropolitan counties, had made the districts their agents for things like road maintenance.

Alan Alexander of Reading University notes however that "within a few years, such county councils as Tyne and Wear, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands wanted to make a reality of their statutory position as sub-regional authorities, and one way to do this was to attempt to withdraw agencies and begin to provide services directly. Once again the motivation was status rather than politics."

To say there was no love lost between the metropolitan districts and counties would perhaps be underestimating the

degree of antagonism. The committee representing the metropolitan districts of the West Midlands recently said bluntly that there could easily be "a reversion to proper all-purpose district authorities on the model of the old county boroughs, with the districts working together where necessary."

However, in 1979 there was peace. The Conservative Manifesto of May 1979 never mentioned the metropolitan counties (and scarcely mentioned local government). There was no secret abolition plan in ministers' baggage. What went so quickly wrong?

The abolition issue is inseparable from the government's determination to reduce council spending in aggregate and, following from that, to apply cash limits to the spending "profligate" local authorities; it is vitally linked with the unsuccessful bid to redeem a promise made by Mrs Thatcher earlier in her political career to scrap property rates.

DW

The reorganization and the operation

From previous pages his critique of the existing scheme the damage done to the county boroughs in the urban areas by the shift in population to outer areas. A second strand in the report's conclusions was the division of public services into those best handled by conurbation wide authorities (especially around Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham) and most local "personal" services. Roughly, planning, transport and water supply fell into the first category, and education, social work and housing into the latter.

Mr Heath's government was not Bourbon; it amended rather than jettisoned the Redcliffe-Maud reform scheme. While Redcliffe-Maud had reluctantly accepted the need for two "tiers" of local government in the conurbations, the 1971 White Paper (Cmd 4584, *Reform of Local Government in England: Government Proposals for Reorganization*) enthusiastically embraced the principle.

The problem of the conurbations was to be dealt with by a mixture of strategic county-wide councils and local districts springing from the former county boroughs. The Conservatives innuovated by advocating county councils for South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear; they discarded Labour's preference for a new conurbation county of South Hampshire covering Southampton and Portsmouth.

David Walker
Social Policy Correspondent

The long and relentless countdown



Tom King: Started work on the implications of abolition; was succeeded by Patrick Jenkin

The countdown to abolition has gone like this:

- The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 for the first time compared council expenditure with centrally defined assessments; the government made unfavourable comparisons for some of the metro counties
- 1980: The Government ordered Whitehall to investigate an alternative to the rates in the finance of local government as a way of realizing the promise made in 1974 by Mrs Thatcher when she was Opposition spokesman on the Environment committing the Conservatives to abolishing rates
- May 1981: All six metro counties go Labour
- June 1981: The *Financial Times* reported "the Govern-

ment decided in principle to abolish the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan counties in England"

- Autumn 1981: The Government published a green paper, *Alternatives to Domestic Rates*
- December 1981: Decision by the Law Lords called into question powers of upper-tier councils in transport management
- 1982: A Cabinet committee juxtaposed abolition of rates and abolition of metro counties as policies
- Winter 1982: The abolition plan came under attack from the Home Office which feared for its effect on the police and fire services
- Spring 1983: The Cabinet decided to go ahead with abolition

June 1983: The Conservative manifesto promised an end to GLC and metropolitan counties by 1986.

- August 1983: The Government's long-awaited Rates White Paper spelled out the details of rate-capping.
- October 1983: Abolition White Paper published claiming large scale savings in cost and manpower.
- December 1983: The Government published its Rates Bill and acknowledged it as an instrument for controlling the rates of the metropolitan counties (then why abolish us, asked the county leaders).
- Spring 1984: The Government did cartwheels explaining how the arts and grants to voluntary organizations would not be affected by abolition even

DW

'Their role does not justify the cost'

Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government, has become a key figure in the drive to abolish the metropolitan county councils. When the White Paper *Streamlining the Cities* was published last year Mr Baker was still Minister for Information Technology. But after the heavy weather made in Parliament this summer of the first stage of the countdown to abolition, the Prime Minister made Mr Baker Minister for Local Government.

It was freely made known from Downing Street that Mr Baker had been moved because the Government was worried about the propaganda gains being made by the Greater London Council and the other threatened metropolitan authorities.

Mr Baker, who was once a London MP, knew it well. He soon showed that despite many misgivings among Conservatives he was fully committed to abolishing the threatened councils on time and replacing them with broadly the structure outlined in 1983.

They included Conservative councillors such as Irvine Patnick, the Opposition leader on South Yorkshire County Council, and Michael King, leader of Trafford Borough Council in Greater Manchester. Mr King is one of many Conservative councillors in districts who are keen to take on county functions after abolition.

Mr Baker insists that the metropolitan authorities are not needed because in 10 years they have not found a role

that justifies their cost. He is convinced that their elimination will bring savings.

He says that there is wide scope for saving among the threatened councils because the extent of their combined "overspend" above what the Government thinks they should spend is far above the excess for other types of council. That blanket statement obscures the fact that among the threatened councils most of the spending above Government targets comes from the GLC and not the metropolitan county councils.

But Mr Baker adds that the threatened councils have been increasing their workforces while their responsibilities have been dwindling.

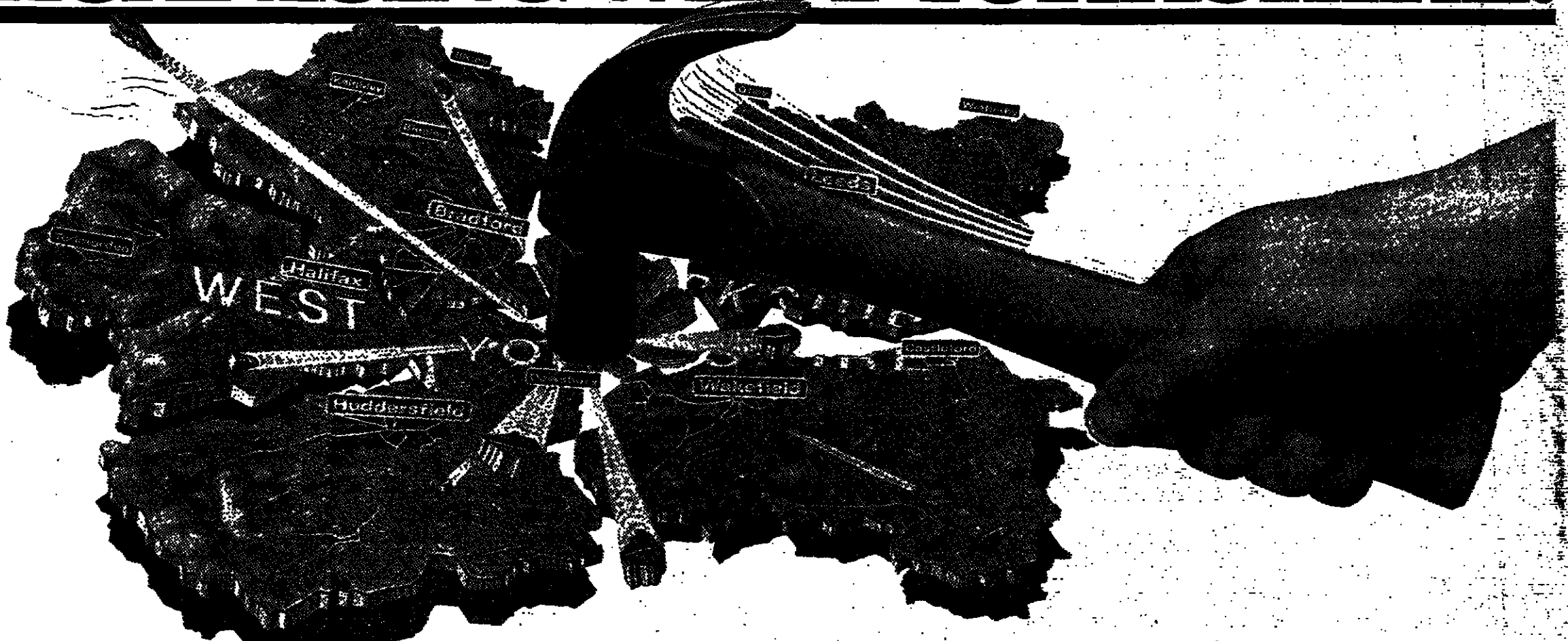
He said: Greater Manchester County Council have increased staff by 8 per cent since 1981 and West Midlands County Council by 6 per cent since 1982.

"The scope for major policy savings is clearly substantial," Mr Baker continues. "Economies are there to be made to the lasting benefit of ratepayers in the metropolitan areas."

But he always returns to the point repeated by ministers throughout the year: it is that abolition is not being proposed simply to make savings. The idea is to bring local government closer to the electors by placing more powers in the hands of district councillors.

Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR RE-ORGANISING WEST YORKSHIRE.



On 1 April 1986, the Government plans to abolish West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council.

The results could be shattering. For a start, three-quarters of the annual budget is to be handed over to six new county-wide bodies responsible for the Police, the Fire Service, Public Transport, the Probation Service, Grants to Voluntary Organisations, and Residuary Powers. Each will have the right to raise money through the Metropolitan District Councils from local ratepayers.

In other words, seven different local government bodies will be competing for the pound in the ratepayer's pocket.

What hope, then, for reduced rate bills? Other vital services, such as Strategic

Planning, Highways, Traffic Management, Waste Disposal, Land Reclamation, Trading Standards, Countryside, Recreation and the Arts - one quarter of the County Council's annual budget - will be handed over to the District Councils. Because these services, too, have county-wide implications, the Government is setting up a cat's-cradle of "voluntary joint arrangements."

What hope is there here for reduced bureaucracy?

The Abolition Bill has highlighted the Government's true intent - a much greater say by Westminster and Whitehall in local government in the metropolitan county areas. The Bill gives the Environment Secretary sixty-seven additional powers.

And who loses when centralism takes over? The answer is obvious - those living in the metropolitan areas. Without a Royal Commission or other form of inquiry they are reduced, by a one-sentence manifesto commitment, to second-class citizens no longer enjoying the same electoral rights or the same immediate access to those who control local services as people living in shire county areas.

Does the Government really believe in local democracy?

WEST YORKSHIRE
Metropolitan County Council
COUNTY HALL WAKEFIELD WEST YORKSHIRE WF1 1QW

Are we exactly...
31
1986
POLICE
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
LIVERPOOL AIRPORT
Who up the drop
MERS

Are we all sure we know exactly who does what?

O MARCH 31 1986

How do you react if you are asked to join a local council? Assume, for example, that you have just discovered that permission has been given for a new effluent-processing plant within an embankment of your property. Imagine, alternatively, that when the dustman swings your neighbour's bin on to his shoulders, he always manages to leave some of its contents a your hydrangeas.

You might say: I shall write to my councillor and complain to Parliament. But you would be much more likely to say: "I shall write to my P and complain to the council." Somehow, MPs manage to be identifiable personalities in a way that councillors never are.

Local government may fail to be confusing. A city council can at the same time be a district council - but cannot then be a town council.

Likewise Parliament can be a much more real and tangible institution than the councils of the towns and cities. But if local government itself is a relatively unknown quantity, its most recent reorganizations are the least known of all. How many voters who live south of Birmingham know where to look on the map for each of the six metropolitan city councils that the Government intends to abolish?

Is it Wear and Ersey that they want to get rid of, or is it North Lakeside? When we talk in casual conversation about local government we usually speak of "the council" even though most of us are represented by more than one. As for the identity of our councillors or the names of the wards they represent, most of us probably neither know nor care. That, at least, is what local government voting figures suggest.

One reason for lack of interest is that local government never fails to be confusing. A city council is at the same time a district council. But if it is, it cannot also be a town council, which is an altogether different creature.

A county can be a shire county even if its name does not end with "shire". A densely populated city like Bristol or

Southampton can be classed in local government terminology as a "non-metropolitan". An English county council can act as an education authority, but not as a health or water authority. A non-metropolitan district council can be a planning authority, but not an education authority.

Of course, the system is supposed to be simpler than it was, with the elimination of such awkwardly placed or shaped entities as Rutland and Middlessex. Out they went, and in came the single county of Hereford and Worcester, not to mention other newcomers like Cleveland and the six metropolitan counties.

The Government has assured its nervous supporters in the shires that those six are the only county councils that it wants to abolish. Each of the other English counties is classed as a shire county even if its name is Kent or Cornwall.

One of the Government's justifications for abolition is that there is a key difference between the two species of county councils. There are few important tasks which are discharged by the county authorities in the shires and the district councils in the metropolitan areas.

That makes the metropolitan authorities smaller in spending terms than their shire counterparts. The functions which are undertaken by the different authorities are few, but expensive. The main one is education.

One of the reasons for the different allocations of tasks between the shire and metropolitan areas is based on

differences in revenue-raising powers.

Costly services like education are left in the metropolitan areas to big district authorities like Birmingham or Manchester city councils because their large populations and high incidence of commercial property gives them a large base from which to raise rates.

But the metropolitan county councils also have large rate bases, because each one spreads over several large cities. That in the view of ministers, has led them to cast about for some sort of "strategic" function simply to try to justify their continued existence.

The key to the Government's case for abolition is that the metropolitan county councils are large organizations with little to do and nothing which cannot be done more cost-effectively by someone else. The councils reply that much of their work is unsuitable for sharing among a number of smaller bodies with competing aims.

The case they all like to quote is that of Leeds-Bradford airport. They point to a recent disagreement about the future structure of the airport in which the two city authorities responsible for it were at loggerheads. That kind of dispute could be duplicated many times, the county authorities say, if their responsibilities are divided among smaller councils.

One of their difficulties in the debate about abolition has been that the Labour and Liberal parties, while opposed to the principle and mechanism of the abolition programme, have clearly divergent views about what to do if the threatened councils really are scrapped.

Each party is much more committed to rescuing the GLC than to reviving the metropolitan county councils. That is because neither party sees the metropolitan authorities fitting into its plans for administration of the largest provincial cities into the next century.

HC

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HC



Michael Campbell, Labour leader of Tyne & Wear: the resultant quangos will be "sinister"

Fantasy or fact: the rows over finance

Labour opponents of abolition have had plenty to work on in the past year. First was the Government's failure to back with detailed figures its claim that abolition would bring savings. Then there was the embarrassing undercurrent of dislike for the plan in the Conservative party. Finally there was the Local Government Bill, which is designed to give the Government power to scrap seven councils in 1986.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Bill proposed to give ministers more powers than those open to Parliament itself. But there are plenty of no less vociferous opponents of abolition in the threatened authorities themselves.

One of the most forthright is Bernard Clarke, Labour leader of Greater Manchester County Council, who calls the Bill "a piece of gross deception employed by a Government contemptuous of the facts."

"It swings right into the realms of fantasy in its shoddy Bill by claiming that most services will be transferred to district and borough councils," he continues. "The Government also makes the fatuous claim that abolition will save £50m across the six metropolitan areas."

"But the top financial consultants, Coopers & Lybrand, concluded that the new administration would most likely cost up to £61m a year more. Abolition is bound to cost the

ratepayers more. The proposed structure is patently more complex. Local accountability will inevitably be eroded."

Mr Clarke dismisses Government claims that abolition will streamline local administration. "Remove a source of conflict and tension. Save money and create a system simpler for the public to understand. Rubbish, all of it, and shown to be downright dishonest by the evidence from Coopers and PA Management that we have been forced to commission."

He predicts that if abolition goes ahead the "residual" quangos planned by the Government for each metropolitan county will cause extra confusion for ratepayers.

Michael Campbell, Labour leader of Tyne & Wear county council, calls the residual quangos "a new and sinister element in local government." He predicts that they would consist of a handful of Government appointees, "no doubt benefiting from fancy salaries."

One of the main spokesmen for the metropolitan county councils is John Gunnell, a 51-year-old science teacher who was leader of the opposition on West Yorkshire County Council until Labour took control three years ago.



Bernard Clarke, Labour leader of Greater Manchester: "It's gross deception"

He has challenged ministers to submit their claims for the savings to be won from abolition to the Audit Commission. The commission is a quango appointed to monitor efficiency in local government. Mr Gunnell is a member of it.

He says that the gap between the large savings claimed by ministers and the much smaller amount estimated by Coopers & Lybrand is too wide to be left without close independent analysis. But the Coopers' figures are backed by detailed investigation of the Govern-

ment's proposals and their impact on the ground while ministers have given little evidence to support their claims.

"Surely it would be a massive act of faith to accept unquestionably the idea of any saving at all," Mr Gunnell says. "The most likely course of events is that the extra cost of abolition will increase to £69m. This contrasts rather starkly against the Government's present claims of £50m savings."

HC

Who is responsible?

(Key: D=County council, D=District council, M=Met, S=Shire, C=County)

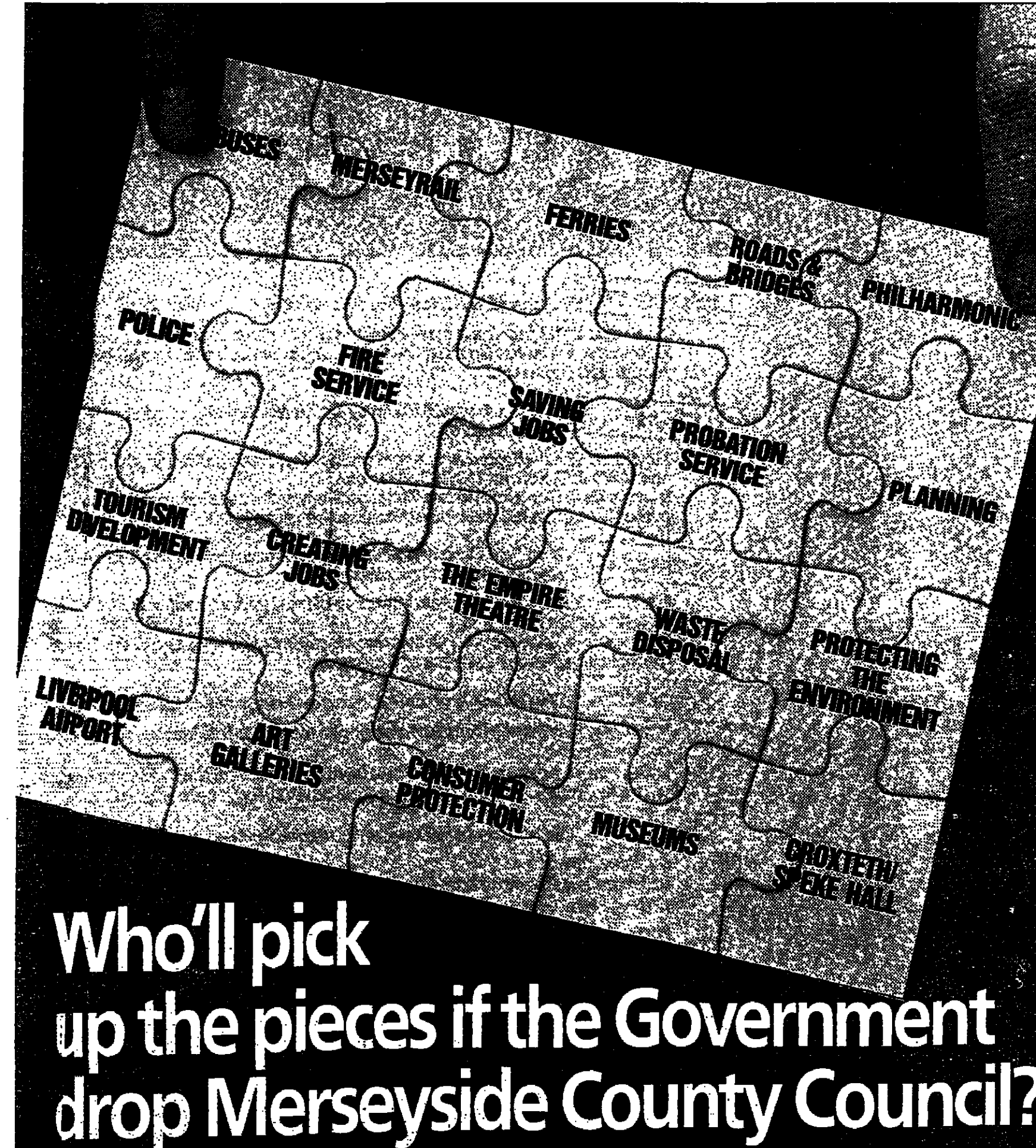
Service	County	Met	Shire	County
Education	D	D	C	
Personal social services (e.g. children in care; homes for the elderly)	D	D	C	
Libraries	D	D	C	
Council house building	D	D	C	
Structure plans	C	D	C	
Public footpaths	C	D	C	
Organizing allotments	D	D	C	
Collecting rubbish	D	D	C	
Dumping rubbish	C	C	C	
Births, deaths and marriage registration	D	D	C	
Slaughterhouses	D	C	C	
Police	D	C	C	
Fire brigades	C	C	C	

Jobs in the firing line: Staff at the date of the abolition announcement

County	Less than 20 years	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	over 60	Total
Greater Manchester	155	1073	1292	1104	1171	493	5288
Tyne & Wear	66	411	434	362	340	119	1832
South Yorkshire	233	1011	994	700	737	134	3709
West Yorkshire	267	1009	1452	1275	1181	313	5487
West Midlands	179	992	987	825	465	97	3345
Merseyside	136	545	661	578	558	278	2776
Totals	1036	5041	5940	4644	4352	1434	22,447

Source: Local Government Chronicle

FOR HIRE



Who'll pick up the pieces if the Government drop Merseyside County Council?

The Government has decided to drop Merseyside County Council - a part of local government which is providing so many local services efficiently and cost effectively:-

- A co-ordinated Public Transport system that is the envy of the country, with one of the finest underground railway systems outside London and a ferry service that's proving to have more than just sentimental value.
- A more efficient, economical Fire Service, with standardisation of appliances and procedure producing a more cost-effective use of manpower and equipment.
- The liveliest Arts Scene outside London, which even the Government recognise can be a social and economic asset, adding greatly to the quality of local life and attracting inward investment and jobs.
- Important economic development initiatives

that have helped both create, and save, thousands of jobs in Merseyside.

■ Merseyside County Council also operate or help to support Police, Planning, Liverpool Airport, Waste Disposal, Trading Standards, Street Lighting, the Mersey Tunnels, Roads, The Probation Service - just as effectively and economically.

The P.A. Management Report has said clearly that abolition can't work.

Coopers & Lybrand have put the cost of abolition at as much as £69 million per year for the GLC and the six Metropolitan Counties.

Here on Merseyside higher costs are only part of the story. The abolition of Merseyside County Council - local enough to serve the specific needs of the area yet large and powerful enough to raise a strong voice on local issues at Central Government level - could shatter the hopes and dreams of a new Merseyside.

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY COUNCIL - JUST RIGHT FOR MERSEYSIDE

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

MARCH 31 1986

The race to abolish the metropolitan county councils on time is well underway. When Kenneth Baker became Minister for Local Government in the autumn, he said several times that the six county authorities and the Greater London Council would definitely cease to exist on March 31 1986.

It was significant that he said it so emphatically. It was doubly significant that doing so had a noticeable effect on the climate of discussion about the fate of the councils. That effect was a measure of the Government's disavowal in the summer, at the time of the defeat in the Lords of the Government's original plans for paving the way next year for abolition of the year after.

Mr Baker's arrival, and the successful Conservative boycott of Ken Livingstone's council by-election in London, helped to give the impression that the initiative had been wrested from the opponents of abolition.

The publication of the Local Government Bill in November led some of those opponents to believe that they had a good chance of regaining it. The inclusion of the notorious Clause 93 helped to breathe new life into the flagging campaign against abolition.

"The Secretary of State", it says, "may at any time by order make such incidental, consequential, transitional or supplementary provision as appears to him to be necessary or expedient for the general purposes or any particular purposes of this Act... or for giving full effect to it."

It means that ministers want to be allowed to trump anything that emerges unexpectedly from the hand of any of the threatened councils. They also want to be able to do it quickly, without lingering for too long over parliamentary niceties as the stated abolition deadline set draws nearer.

The moment chosen for abolition is only 15 months away. But most of the new bodies that are supposed to take on county work after abolition are expected to start work six months before the final cut-off date. The Government has therefore allowed little more than nine months in which to secure enactment of the Bill and start the final countdown.

Mr Baker complained in November that the GLC had not told the Government who had booked the Royal Festival Hall in London for the first months after abolition. Ministers know that there is still much for them to learn about the working of the metropolitan county councils and the district authorities that are supposed to

The abolition juggernaut: running over its allies?

BREAKING DOWN THE COST OF BREAKING UP

Though most of them probably do not know it, ratepayers in the metropolitan counties have spent thousands of pounds this year on surveys and estimates of what abolition will or will not save. Each side in the argument has tried to bolster its case by hiring consultants or using officers to examine the effects of abolition followed by a transfer of powers to the district councils. A clear pattern has emerged throughout the confusing mass of reports. Those commissioned by the metropolitan county councils themselves have predicted that the system proposed by the Government to follow abolition will produce only small savings, if any, and will complicate local administration instead of making it simpler. Those commissioned wholly or partly by Conservative-led districts have suggested that abolition would produce useful savings. Each forecast has been greeted with derision by opponents and warm approval by supporters. The ratepayers have paid their money. Now they can take their choice.

Some of the most effective material against abolition has been produced for the metropolitan county councils by Coopers & Lybrand Associates at a cost of more than £350,000. Their five reports have done much to shake the confidence of government assurances that abolition will bring savings.

There is still a wide gap. Ministers believe that abolition of the metropolitan county councils will save £50m a year at a cost of more than 3,000 jobs, although the basis for that estimate has not been given. Coopers & Lybrand say that the most ministers can realistically expect is a saving of £2m a year and the loss of 500 jobs. That depends on a high level of cooperation among district councils after abolition, otherwise there may be a heavy cost instead.

Coopers & Lybrand have revised their figures now that the Government has published the Local Government Bill and they believe that extra costs must be built in now that ministers are prepared to allow district councils to withdraw from joint boards.

Birmingham City Council has already said that it wants its own police force outside the proposed West Midlands county joint board for policing. Wirral District Council on Merseyside wants its own fire brigade.

These are the Coopers & Lybrand estimates of the impact of abolition:

	Assuming good cooperation among districts	Assuming poor cooperation among districts
Old figures	Saving £4m-£9.5m a year	Extra cost of £36m-£51m a year
New figures	Saving £2m a year to extra cost of £14m	Extra cost of £38m to £53m

take over many of their tasks.

Though much will go straight to the district councils, each metropolitan county will also have joint boards of district councillors to run police forces, fire brigades and bus services with other local public-transport operations. Each county will also have a "residual body" or special quango to handle the property of the abolished councils and their staff pension funds. Each of the quangos will be told to prepare to abolish itself after a few years.

What it all means is that the present dual pattern of directly-elected metropolitan and district councils will be replaced by a more complicated system. Ministers claim that it will be a more locally-accountable system because councillors from each district will have more

influence over local affairs.

The district councils will stay as they are, but will do more work with more staff. Councilors in each district will choose a few of their number to serve on each joint board. The "residual body" will work in each county alongside the district councils and joint boards. The counties will exist only as names on the map of England and as components of postal addresses.

Opponents of abolition claim that the new system will be less democratic because work now done by directly-elected councillors will be done by members of joint boards who will be working at one remove from the voters. They see it as part of the steady removal of local influence from local administration. The Government has already cleared local councillors out of

water authorities. Now it is trying to clear them out of the county councils as well.

The most difficult part of the operation for the Government will be making sure that all the arrangements are ready on time. The Liberal Party has already told ministers that they cannot possibly have everything in place by the end of March 1986.

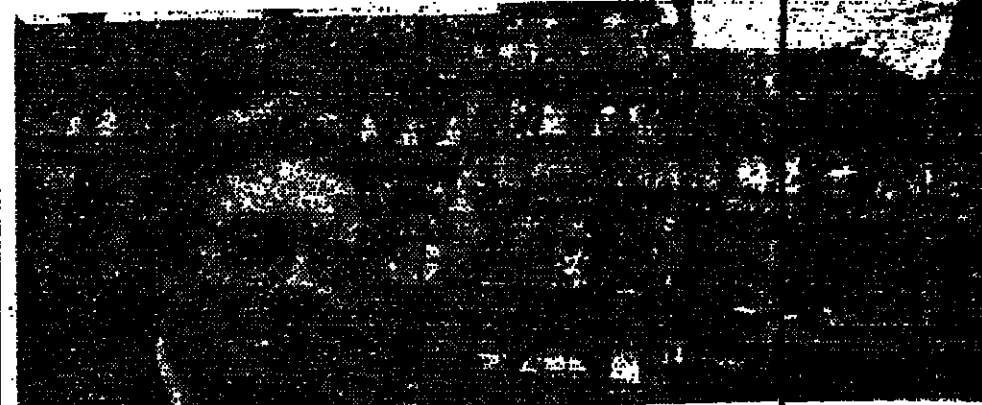
The threatened councils and the Labour-led district authorities which are meant to take powers from them are still refusing to give ministers the information they need to make precise handover arrangements. The Government knows what it wants to do with the GLC and the metropolitan county councils and when and why it wants to do it.

But there is plenty of evidence that ministers do not know how they are going to do

it. The document described officially as "a full statement of the Government's estimates" of the savings to be won from abolition turned out to be nothing of the kind. The document, issued at the end of November, was just a summary of the complaints made by ministers about the threatened councils over many months.

The worst outcome for the Government would be a parliamentary defeat in the coming months which would force ministers to change the abolition programme so much that the threatened councils would sail through almost intact. But even if abolition went ahead on time, the Government could be left with an administrative quagmire in the period leading up to the next general election.

HC



After abolition, how will the Town Hall behind South Yorkshire's leader Rod Thwaites be used?

If officialdom in the metropolitan counties has an ideal type, it surely must be Ray O'Brien, the burly chief executive of the Merseyside county council, who after a noteworthy career in local government law and finance returned in 1977 to his native Liverpool: actively to promote not only his council but also the interests of the urban sprawl he can see from his multi-storied office hard by those distinctive towers of the Liver Building on the edge of the River Mersey.

Mr O'Brien stands out for his wit (not a quality in ready supply in the nation's town halls) and his forcefulness - before which more than one faint-hearted politician has quailed. In the aftermath of the Toxteth riots of 1981 when train loads of Whitehall civil servants and ministers visited Liverpool some were taken aback by Mr O'Brien's fierce independence of mind. No visitor to the county council is left in any doubt, however, about his unwavering loyalty to his local authority and to its role, past and future, in retrieving Liverpool and its environs from social and economic decay.

By background, however, Mr O'Brien is a man of the shire counties rather than the urban areas. He was born and educated in Merseyside. After Oxford and legal training he worked first for Cheshire County Council then Staffordshire before achieving a national reputation in Nottinghamshire where he became chief executive in 1974.

Perhaps more typical of the trajectory of metropolitan county officials is the background of Derrick Hender, chief executive of the West Midlands, who rose through the government ranks to become both treasurer and later town clerk of Coventry - before joining the county council at its inception in 1973.

Mr Hender is well known to his colleagues in the municipal world through a succession of articles in *Local Government Chronicle* in which he has abandoned the traditional diffidence of the town clerk and argued strongly against the

Nightmare of hasty decisions feared

Government's plans for the metropolitan counties.

Here is the flavour of a recent contribution, discussing the establishment of joint boards of the districts to run county-wide services. "The government is quite right to impose tight controls over the boards because it is the only chance of making the system work and local democracy takes second place to expediency."

He went on: "Is there not the chance that some new thoughts on government for the metropolitan areas will emerge? Thoughts suitable for the future rather than the resurrection of forms discarded in the last century."

"The greatest condemnation of the proposals is that they are quaintly old-fashioned."

Emulating Mr Hender in the publicity stakes, is the chief executive of South Yorkshire, recently promoted into the job from his post as county secretary. During the passage of the "paving" bill he is credited with an effective address to an

all-party meeting in the House of Lords. In print, he has railed against the "bureaucratic nightmare" being created by the government's hasty decisions.

A more recent arrival at county level is William Miles, new chief executive of West Yorkshire who arrived earlier this year from Gateshead. His predecessor, generally acknowledged as one of the ablest county officials, was Rodney Brooke, who has made the interesting transition from Labour duty to Conservative borough moving to become chief executive of Westminster City Council on London.

To be categorized but by no means dismissed as among the quieter officials are the chief men of Greater Manchester and Tyne and Wear. The latter, Jim Gardner, is like other politicians and officials in the North to often being content to do their best by their region without being tempted daily or weekly to board the later City 25 for the capital or stand on platforms or dip their pens in controversy.

Tony Harrison, chief executive of Greater Manchester, says he will go on "until the ship sinks". Heed he has already served longer than all of this colleagues in the metro county level. Before taking the top job at the county in 1976 he was director general of the regional passenger transport authority. Before the reorganization of local government, buses and trains in the Manchester area were run by a board covering SELNEC - 54th East Lancashire and North-East Cheshire.

In a tribute to his staff during these trying days before abolition, Mr Harrison speaks of "enormous amounts of professionalism and loyalty". The demands for information from centre and district police strains on officials who have their own jobs to do. "You don't let people feelings in the abolition issue get in the way," he argues. "At some age someone has to be responsible for the practical working of the services. For the time being that's our job. And we'll go on doing it."

Merseyside leader Neville Gordon: Still fighting on

DW

You passed on...

The Local Government Bill is now in its initial stages in Parliament. It proposes to abolish the six Metropolitan County Councils in England, including Tyne and Wear.

After thorough assessment and advice from independent experts, Tyne and Wear opposes the Government's plans and is still calling for an independent inquiry to examine local government finance and structure. The Government obstinately refuses.

A number of independent reports, commissioned by the Metropolitan County Councils and widely publicised, proves that there is far more than an element of doubt in the Government's demands for abolition.

Mr Baker, the newly-appointed Minister, is now in the hot-seat to mastermind the Local Government Bill but even Mr Baker's score on five straight-forward questions about the basic effects of the Bill is nil. Why? Quite simply, like his predecessor Mr Jenkin, he is unable to find the answers.

This lack of understanding of Metropolitan Counties is apparent in the Local Government Bill and it makes it even more crucial that a Government inquiry is instituted without delay.

Contestant: Kenneth Baker
Occupation: Minister for Local Government
Specialist Subject: Metropolitan County Councils

Democracy

What will the Local Government Bill do for local democracy?

Mr. Baker: It will provide a more local, more accountable system.

Independent Answer: Nothing. The new structure will be less accountable to local people than at present.

Costs

How much would abolition of the Metropolitan County Councils save?

Mr. Baker: The estimated net annual savings from rationalisation alone will be about £50 million from 1986/87 onwards.

Independent Answer: Nothing. The most likely estimate is increased costs probably an extra £38 million to £59 million each year.

Responsibility

Would all County Council services pass to democratically-elected District Councils?

Mr. Baker: Responsibility for a wide range of local government activities will be returned to the lower tier.

Independent Answer: No. Full responsibility is only being passed to the District Councils for a few relatively minor services.

Services

Would the Government's proposals improve local services?

Mr. Baker: This Bill will bring about major improvements in local government in our great cities.

Independent Answer: No. Overall we have been unable to find a single service where the quality of service to the local elector is likely to be improved.

Controls

How many additional powers would be transferred to Whitehall?

Mr. Baker: Pass.

Independent Answer: Many. The proposals represent a significant enlargement of the powers of central government in local affairs.

Mr Baker's answers are taken from statements made by him since publication of the Local Government Bill. The independent answers are taken from P.A. Management Consultants: "A study of the non-financial aspects of the proposed abolition of the Metropolitan County Councils" November 84, Coopers & Lybrand Associates: "Streamlining the cities"

summary report and updated analysis of costs" November 1984. Copies of these reports and other information on the effects of the Government's proposals can be obtained from Tyne and Wear County Council (Room 906), Sandycroft House, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1ED. Telephone Newcastle (0632) 816144 (extension 235).

Police they

MARCH 31 1986

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Police committees: are they a force for good?

MARCH 31 1986

At the Stockholm conference of the International Union of Local Authorities last year, the chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' police and fire committee, Edwin Shore, spoke of a balance between the powers and resources the police needed to combat crime and assure public order and a need to protect the rights and liberties of the individual.

"It is in the interest of the police," Mr Shore said "that they should actively seek the involvement of the local community. High levels in the incidence of crime, violence, and lawlessness generally are related to poor housing, inadequate education, unemployment, lack of leisure facilities, and environmental conditions.

"An understanding of these conditions enables the police to carry out their duties in a sensitive manner. The more the police become part of the local community and are identified with it the easier their task must become."

Conventional wisdom? The sentiments would be endorsed on all sides of politics, not least by the Home Secretary and his officials who have said similar things themselves on many occasions.

But Mr Shore continued. "The efforts of local government to improve services and the environment are as crucial to law and order as are the efforts of the police to preserve law and order."

By the same token there ought also to be accountability to the local electorate for the police service. This is as much a part of local government as all the other interdependent services based upon and provided by the local authority.

Again, in public at least, the Home Office would take no exception to this. But how should that accountability be exercised and by whom? Mr Shore also happens to be chairman of the West Midlands police authority. He stands for the role of directly elected county councillors in the metropolitan areas in checking and monitoring the work of the police. It is a role the Government is about to abolish.

Checking and monitoring the police can, on occasion, be a controversial business. In South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester or in Merseyside or the other counties, the representatives of



Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, Peter Wright in the middle of the mining dispute

the local community - county councillors - have come into conflict with both senior police officers and the Home Office. In Councillor Shore's terms, such controversy is the stuff of "community relations" in the broadest sense. Take it away and the balance between law and freedom is unsettled. The replacement of police committees of county councillors by nominees of the districts will not do, say the counties - that is democracy at one remove, a recipe for public obfuscation and alienation.

The metropolitan districts, it must be said, take a different view. Ron Watson, leader of Conservative-controlled Sefton, which covers Crosby and Southport, said recently that

There has been a running altercation in public as well as in private between a chief constable and councillors

joint boards would contain elected councillors from councils which have annual elections "and can fairly claim to be much more accountable than the present Merseyside county."

Some examples from the past few years make the point that, comfortable or not, the police service in the threatened counties is under scrutiny.

● The miners' strike. Since the beginning of the dispute both the West and South Yorkshire police committees have actively surveyed the operations of their respective chief constables, as have the other metropolitan county councils when officers from their forces have done

picket duty. In South Yorkshire matters came to a head in early summer when the police committee tried to disallow spending by the chief constable in connection with the strike without their prior approval. The matter was taken before the High Court where Lord Justice Watkins said: "I want to make sure that the chief constable is free to take whatever steps he believes are necessary to maintain law and order."

● In the aftermath of the Toxteth riots, the Merseyside police committee wanted to call the chief constable, Kenneth Oxford, to account for his operational decisions and the provision of anti-riot gear. CS gas and baton rounds. Lady Simey, the police committee chairman, said strained relations with Mr Oxford were due to the councillors trying to exercise their responsibilities as set down by law. "There has to be political control", she said.

● There has been a running altercation in public as well as in private between James Anderson, chief constable of Greater Manchester, and the Labour councillors. Mr Anderson's habit of making public expression of controversial views on moral issues did not endear him to the committee. But elsewhere in the West Midlands, for example, where rarely is a cross word exchanged between Sir Philip Knights, the chief constable, and the councillors, police-community relations are handled differently - an indication of how far representative local government may reflect cultural variation between different parts of the country.

DW

Transport: Praise from Whitehall

Probably the most potent symbol of the success of the metropolitan counties in coordinating public transport in their areas is visible on entering the old train station in Tyne-mouth. It is a map. It shows the schoolchild Whitley Bay seven minutes away by metro-rail, the shopper the spending opportunities of Eldon Square only 25 minutes distant, the Tynesider easy access to friends and relatives whether they live in Gateshead or Walker. The Tyne and Wear metro-rail undoubtedly serves to unify the conurbation.

Tyne and Wear's metro-rail, part new construction, part take-over of redundant British Rail track, is famous. It cost more than £100m and has contributed, since 1975, to a 10 per cent increase in passenger numbers on the county's buses and trains; it would not have been built without a single county-wide public transport authority.

The need for unitary arrangements for transport in the counties is widely agreed. The county passenger transport executives have coordinated services and established a strategic framework of policy. John Welsby, a British Rail director told a recent Association of Metropolitan Authorities Conference his perception is evidently shared within the Department of Transport which insisted on joint boards for transport after abolition.

One of the Government's main objections to the metropolitan county councils is that they comprise an "unnecessary tier" of local administration. Ever since that claim was made, it has proved easier for the Greater London Council to argue against it than for the county councils. One reason is that the GLC has more money than any of the metropolitan county councils to spend on publicizing its case.

Another is that the GLC and its predecessor authorities have had a long period of metropolitan government in London. But the most important card held by the GLC is that it administers the capital city. How, it can argue, can you have a capital city with no single authority to represent its interests? It is one thing to argue that Westminster City Council cannot provide an adequate voice for the whole of inner London. It is quite another to suggest that Birmingham City Council cannot adequately represent inner Birmingham.

The metropolitan county councils realized that their defence would have to be more subtle. They believed that they



On land with Tyne and Wear's metro line and right, councillor Gordon Morgan, sings the praises of regional airports

The Government accepts the need for a single authority providing buses and trains from Sheffield to Barnsley, under the Mersey, between Leeds and Bradford, from Birmingham to West Bromwich. There are even, in some Whitehall quarters, words of praise for Merseyside's "looplink" with British Rail, for Greater Manchester's light rail plans. What has exercised the government - what indeed was a factor in the abolition plan itself - is the spending policies of the coun-

ties. Here, from the Government's point of view, the dire example is South Yorkshire and the Labour-controlled county council's deliberate decision to run a cheap-fares, intensively-used bus system.

This, in the words of Mrs Lynda Chalker, the junior transport minister, constituted a refusal on the part of the county councils to "face reality": their spending on support for passenger transport was too high; levels of fares subsidy too great; manning levels unacceptable to

the Government; whatever local opinion might be expressed.

Under the abolition plans, the Department of Transport will take direct control of fares and service levels in the metropolitan counties since it will have the power to set the passenger boards' budgets. The Tyne and Wear metro will continue, it appears, but the fares will rise and the frequency of service will be decided on the banks of the River Thames.

DW

Airports fly into profit

Five major regional airports are affected by the fate of the metropolitan counties - Birmingham, Leeds/Bradford, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle. "The Government," says the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, "just did not seem to be aware of what was happening there." The five airports made an £18 million operating surplus in 1982-83, a testimony (say the county councils) to their effective management.

The West Midlands County Council says that over the five-year period prior to the county's creation, the Birmingham Airport was being run at a £350,000 deficit. Since then its operation has been "remarkably successful" with an increasing range of air transport services for the Midlands and extensive domestic and international scheduled and charter services.

Passenger numbers have increased from 700,000 in 1970 to 1,600,568 in 1982-83. The county council forecasts that by 1990 at least 2,000 new jobs will have been created at the airport and in adjacent hotels. Work has been completed on a new passenger terminal linked by an automated transport system - MACLEV, featuring elevated track vehicles.

planning and development control. Barcelona Metropolitan Corporation in Spain is a recent indirectly - elected creation which is responsible for planning.

Mr Norton found that the corporation had fulfilled a role like that which the English metropolitan county councils have set out for themselves. "The strongest impression on the author is of local leaders, responsible to local electorates, struggling with and developing truly local solutions to the metropolitan problem," he wrote.

The councils he studied had wrestled with the difficulty of providing a buffer between the central power in a country and the small local councils, many of which are much smaller than the metropolitan districts in England. In some cases the wrestling was more conspicuous than its result. But some of the countries which have adopted a pattern of metropolitan administration which is geographically comparable to that of the English counties have no intention of getting rid of it.

HC

Abroad in Metro land

could point to achievements and advantages no less solid than those of the GLC.

Their search for data to support their rejection of the Government's claim that they are unnecessary has taken the metropolitan authorities abroad. Alan Norton, of the Institute of Local Government Studies at the University of Birmingham was commissioned by the county councils to examine city government in eight democratic countries.

"The turbulent history of recent local government change in England amazes our continental neighbours," Mr Norton

wrote. "Nowhere else does there appear to be a similar sharp polarization of policies between political parties."

One of the successes he found was Metropolitan Toronto authority whose area stretches for more than 20 miles along the shore of Lake Ontario. Half of the councillors are nominated by the six smaller councils in the area and half are the mayors and senior members of those councils.

The council is therefore elected by a method unknown in Britain. It also has powers that go beyond those of Metropolitan county in Eng-

land. They include ambulance services, for example.

Mr Norton found evidence that the metropolitan authority in Toronto had acted as a useful point of diffusion between the Government and the local councils. He found local satisfaction with the metropolitan authority's role as strategic planner and provider of an integrated transport system across the boundaries of the smaller local councils.

Councils in Sweden have the power to raise a local income tax and the small local councils below the county level supply water and power which in Britain would be provided by Nationalized industries. The work of Stockholm County Council has been examined minutely in Sweden and has proved an acceptable agency for transport planning and development control.

Greater Copenhagen Council has a tiny staff to meet some of the needs of a third of the population of Denmark. Its main role has been in land use

Metropolitan authority	Population	Number of lower-tier councils	Population of largest city
Tyne & Wear	1.4m	5	301,000
Merseyside	1.5m	5	513,000
S Yorkshire	1.3m	4	543,000
W Yorkshire	2.5m	5	724,000
Gr Manchester	2.5m	10	474,000
W Midlands	2.5m	7	1,030,000
Stockholm county	1.5m	23	746,000
Gr Copenhagen	1.7m	45	623,000
Metropolitan Barcelona	3.1m	27	1,774,000
Metropolitan Toronto	2.1m	6	630,000

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Enterprise boards: socialism with capitalism



Swallowing a century of regional pride Birmingham and the Black Country a fortnight ago joined the Government's list of "assisted areas". The West Midlands - where since 1978 some 25,000 jobs in manufacturing have disappeared - will now qualify for development grants. But no-one locally imagines that new Department of Trade and Industry money can of itself turn around the recession-bound regional economy. On the contrary, says Geoff Edge, chairman of the West Midlands County Council's economic development committee, "West Midlanders must do what they can themselves to pull the region out of recession and halt the frightening prospects of further decline."

It is a message which chimes with Birmingham's tradition of self-help and municipal activism. The city council is a keen promoter of the city as the "heart of England" and its development projects include the Birmingham International Exhibition Centre and new hotels and a conference centre in the middle of the city.

The Labour administration of the county council has been active, too, through the medium of the West Midlands Enterprise Board in generating investment in the area. "We have a proud tradition in the Black Country of innovation and resourcefulness and these quantities are needed now more than ever before," says Mr Edge who doubles as chairman of the board.

Trying to fill a financial gap

The enterprise board is itself an innovation. The idea of a municipal enterprise board intervening in the local economy to re-structure private firms was a spin off from the work of Stuart Holland, Robin Young and other academics influenced by Italian models: the national enterprise board set up by the last Labour government had the same roots. It represents a kind of rapprochement between socialism (the local council) and capitalism (the firm needing capital investment): the firm sees its profitability enhanced, the council sees jobs created and the West Midlands board stipulates this in contracts-minimum health and safety standards enforced and trade unions recognized.

According to Mr Edge "the board is a public sector development capital company which was set up to provide

Strict money terms only

primarily equity, also long term loan finance to West Midlands companies. There are many companies which have survived the recession, but which now need new finance."

Beneficiaries of the board's £6.5 million investment include Amalloy, a steel foundry in the Black Country; Kirby's of Oldbury, the last British-owned manufacturer of cardboard box making equipment; and Welding Robotics of Wolverhampton.

The board's interest does not extend only to the traditional "metal-banging" industries of the West Midlands. It is proud of its £125,000 stake in E. R. Hammerley & Co, a supplier of trendy garb to Saks of Fifth Avenue, and the workforce increased by nearly 100 after the capital injection.

As long ago as 1978 Merseyside County Council, then Conservative controlled, set up MERCEDO, the Merseyside Economic Development Office to provide advice on business development, sites and properties. Later the council spun off a limited company with a £3 million investment fund. It sponsors an agency for promoting the growth of workers' cooperatives and an agency for training both young people and adults in new technology. There is now a veritable alphabet of Merseyside economic initiatives in which the county council has a hand, from the Merseyside Enterprise Forum to the Wave-tree Technology Park, a joint venture with Liverpool City Council, the Plessey Company and English Industrial Estates.

The virtue of the metropolitan counties, according to Mrs Eade, chairman of the employment sub-committee of the West Yorkshire County Council is that they combine democratic accountability with the scale necessary to tackle the problems of industrial decline in conurbation Britain.

Mrs Eade says: "West Yorkshire County Council has a programme of building industrial access roads, servicing land for industrial development, training workers for new jobs, making grants to small firm and cooperatives, and providing venture capital."

"All in all the county has created or saved 8,000 jobs in the local economy in close cooperation with local business and commerce. A further 12,000 jobs are in the pipeline."

Yet all county leaders nowadays define their economic role in terms much wider than enterprise boards or development committees. In evidence it gave to the House of Commons' environment committee examining the problems of management or urban renewal, Tyne and Wear County Council defined their task as that of coordinating a myriad of efforts to stimulate jobs and refurbish the housing, roads and other infrastructure of Newcastle, Sunderland and Gateshead.

In its memorandum to MPs, the county said it was the most appropriate body to coordinate the renewal programme: it alone covered the whole conurbation and was well placed both to assess the competing needs of areas within the conurbation and to operate the necessary countywide services.

Investing in a new kind of job

In testimony in the House of Commons, the leader of Tyne and Wear cited the county's work in packaging the presentation of the North East to Nissan which indeed eventually decided to locate its new motor assembly plant there. Jim Gardner, chief executive of Tyne and Wear, said the degree of cooperation between county and districts was "unique" in the metropolitan areas.

Back in the West Midlands, the county council is at pains to define "economic development" to include much more than investing in firms. Jobs cannot always be provided by traditional capitalistic forms says the council. It emphasizes the role of workers' cooperatives and "community enterprises". To date £363,320 worth of grants have been made to 42 cooperatives, paying for about 200 jobs.

Beyond that, the council says that despite its best efforts, low pay, poverty and unemployment will persist and its job is to assist the poor. For example by encouraging the fullest possible take up of social security benefits. It has sponsored four local "take-up" campaigns in Birmingham, Chelmsley Wood, Sandwell and Dudley which, it says, have generated more than £3.5 million a year in extra benefit payments. "We include all these in our wide-ranging approach to economic development," says Mr Edge.

DW

Parks and pleasure: the forgotten factor?

Ministers claim that the metropolitan county councils are not worth keeping because they have far too little to do. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, made the point at the annual meeting of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. "If you look at what these councils actually do - or rather don't do - the exaggerated claims of their defenders just don't stand up."

The metropolitan councils are not, for example, responsible for education or housing or personal social services, he went on. "Nor are they responsible for health, water, sewerage, street cleaning or even crematoria."

It was a long list, long enough to include two items which English councils never handle. Water and health are administered by their own special authorities and not by directly-elected councillors. Despite Mr Jenkin's ready dismissal, the metropolitan county councils think they have plenty to do. PA Management Consultants, which undertook one of several surveys for the counties about the effects of abolition, identified 42 functions which are still left to the threatened councils.

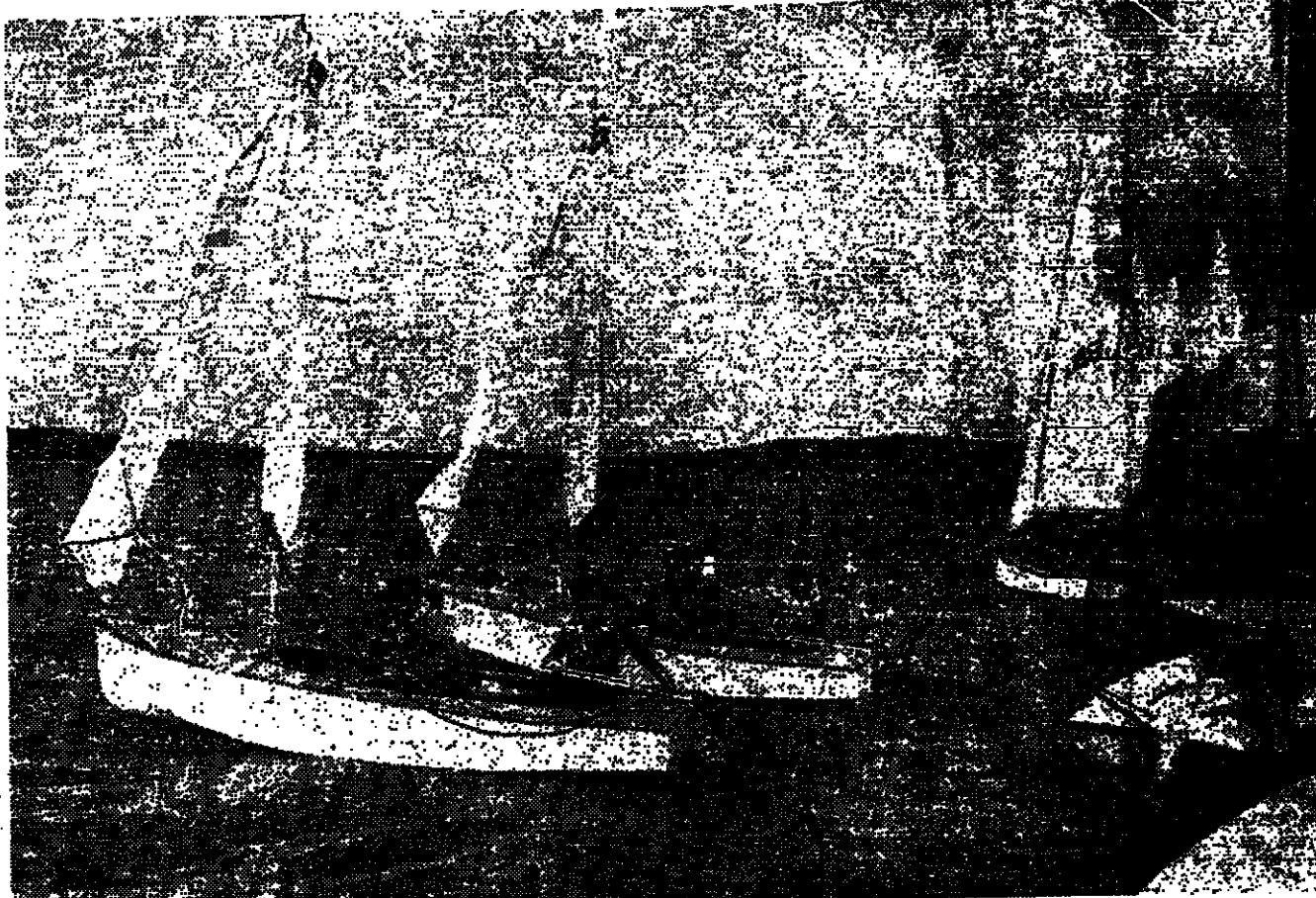
They are worried that some of their uncontroversial work will be dissipated if abolition goes ahead because the main aim afterwards will be to prove to ratepayers that savings can be delivered. Council staff who work in non-political areas feel unfairly associated with criticism of bizarre grants paid by some Labour-led councils.

Though the metropolitan county councils cover some of the most densely-populated regions of Britain, they have always shown a strong interest in protecting the countryside. Surprisingly large portions of their areas have not yet been built on. Half of Greater Manchester and well over a third of Tyne and Wear have

Staff in non-political areas feel unfairly associated with criticism of bizarre grants paid by some Labour-led councils

not yet been swallowed up by urban development.

Recreational work in Tyne and Wear has been split, with the district looking after provision in the towns and the county authority taking responsibility for the countryside. It has organized the signposting and mapping of hundreds of miles of public footpaths and cycle routes and has developed more than 1,000 acres of country parks and picnic sites.



The other side of council expenditure: a boating lake in a reclaimed open-cast site of the Rother Valley

One of the hardest rural tasks for the metropolitan county authorities is to make the urban fringe suitable for recreation and to prevent it from becoming an eyesore. That is where people like to dump their old cars and washing machines, ride their motorcycles through the mud and part company with their unwanted dogs.

Like the other metropolitan counties Tyne and Wear has taken a lead in organizing Green Belt status for land of high landscape and recreational value on the urban fringe. Tyne and Wear's council rural management team is financed partly by the Countryside Commission, a quango which safeguards areas of high landscape value against development.

The commission has told the Government that it is worried about the threat from abolition to "the substantial work done by the metropolitan county councils and the GLC in providing country parks and their recreational facilities in the countryside." It also fears that abolition will weaken Green Belt protection.

The main aim of the Green Belt is to contain urban sprawl which would otherwise join

separate towns into great urban masses and to restrict suburban development in open countryside and unspoiled villages.

But the metropolitan councils do not just restrict development. They stimulate it as well. The Rother Valley country park on the borders of South Yorkshire, between Sheffield and Chesterfield, is one of the most striking examples of a feat of recreational engineering masterminded by a metropolitan county council.

The South Yorkshire authority started to plan the park before opencast mining began in the valley in the late 1970s. The site of more than 700 acres now has a lake, golf course and 150,000 specially planted trees and shrubs.

Most of the £7m cost of the project is being met by South Yorkshire Council with help from Derbyshire County Council and the Countryside Commission. The commission has told the ministers who appoint its members that abolition of the metropolitan county councils would threaten the survival of much of their environmental work.

The commission adds that if abolition goes ahead it should

itself be given enough Government cash to make up for the money now being spent by the metropolitan counties in the countryside. West Midlands, for example, has a landscape and reclamation team of 30 which works mainly on reclaiming derelict land. The county, which

The Countryside Commission has told ministers that abolition would threaten the survival of much of its environmental work

includes much of the heartland of the 19th century industrial revolution, has plenty of derelict sites, and their number has increased in the recession of recent years.

The Government has said that it wants specialist environmental work to be continued after abolition by the smaller councils. But it has also made it clear that one of the areas in which it expects considerable job losses through abolition is in the planning departments of the county councils.

Another non-political activity, in which the prospect of

abolition alarms specialists is the conservation of historic archives. The act of abolition itself will add considerably to the collections held by the threatened councils. Together they hold literally miles of documents and photographs which the district councils are supposed to organize coherently after abolition.

West Yorkshire is the only metropolitan county with the joint arrangements among districts - councils which the Government wants to see throughout the six areas after abolition. West Midlands has no county records office, but they exist in each of the other four metropolitan county councils. Almost half the district councils in those four counties have no archive service.

Archivists have advised the Government to create county-wide services after abolition: that the existing facilities can survive intact. But that would entail reinventing a piece of the present county council structure after abolition and would make it harder for the Government to show that the process had produced savings.

HC

The Local Government (Abolition) Bill 1984

**THIS IS A GOVERNMENT BILL...
...BUT SOUTH YORKSHIRE WILL HAVE TO PAY**

THE **TIMES**

"a document lacking coherent principles for local administration"
24 November 1984

"Government has landed itself in a ghastly mess - Heath"
5 December 1984

"a document lacking any sense of a future"
24 November 1984

"Councils abolition 'will cost £1,000m'"
29 November 1984

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Daily Telegraph

"Heath attacks abolition of counties as 'move for power'"
5 December 1984

"abolition cost 'could' be £69m"
29 November 1984

THE **SUNDAY TIMES**

"the government has produced a botched job"
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"Huge power to interfere"
24 November 1984

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Conoco	55		85	87	
Exxon	50		85	87	
Shell	45		85	87	
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Exxon					

APCC	175	0	+1	15.70	4.9	11.8
Brenntag	150	0	0	4.0	4.9	21.2
De Ry	140	0	0	7.0	5.0	5.0
Burd	400	0	+6	8.5	2.2	24.5
Carlton Cotton	825	0	-5	2.6	1.4	36.9
Chapman	280	0	0	11.8	8.3	17.5
Cox (Richmond)	65	0	0	6.8	3.8	17.5
Cropcor (Herman)	118	0	0	7.9	2.4	24.5
DFG	145	0	-2	3.3	8.2	11.8
E Lanza Paper	104	0	0	5.0	4.8	10.4
Goldman Pulp	425	0	0	7.5	1.5	28.6
Gleason Group	149	0	-1	2.7	3.8	11.8
Good Relations	276	0	0	5.1	1.8	48.8
Lowm H-SCC	335	0	0	3.4	1.5	22.4
MacComputer	163	0	0	2.7	4.7	11.8
Micro-CRAFT	100	0	+10	2.7	4.7	11.8

Swain & Swain	60	2.5	1.0	26.5
Swain & Swain	955	17.5	2.5	24.1
Sparks (Jr)	135	8.5	2.5	2.5
Upper Water	232	8.4	4.1	11.7
Wicks	30			
Wilmington (4)	485	54.5	7.4	8.1
Wilmington	385	7.5	2.9	12.7

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Gre. Vietnam	90	48			
Gre. Laos	90	48	43	43	43
Gre. Cambodia	90	48	43	43	43
Red. Vietnam	90	48	43	43	43
Red. Laos	90	48	43	43	43
Red. Cambodia	90	48	43	43	43
Thailand	90	48	43	43	43
Malaysia	90	48	43	43	43

TOBACCO					
BAT	2 1/2	-	12.8	+3	8.4
Imperial	178	-	8.4	3.5	12.9
Parliament "S"	178	-	8.4	3.5	4.8

Ident. = Ex alt. & Forecast dividend. * Continued
 interim dividend maintained. † Price at 10:00 a.m.
 of first listed exchange & market indicator for
 "P" market figures. * Forecast earnings for
 1977. * Forecast for 1978. * Ex. of 100 shares of
 1977 price adjusted for late discounts. * No shares

[illegible]

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Taxation on pensions remains an open issue

The Government has finally reacted to the growing consternation, caused by widespread rumours that the tax treatment of pensions will be altered in the next Budget. Yesterday and by Wednesday ministers made comments which are likely to be the last on taxation issues before the chancellor goes into pre-Budget purdah. The Prime Minister was characteristically forthright about mortgage interest relief, as it will not be abolished while she is in the Downing seat, were distinctly apague.

In reply to a parliamentary question yesterday asking him to comment on the rumours that tax concessions on pensions were to be reduced Mr Nigel Lawson said he would not confirm or deny the rumours. On the specific question of taxing lump sums taken on retirement he said: "There is no reason for anyone to retire early on account of such rumours. This government would not propose, and the House would not accept, retrospective legislation of the kind."

What exactly does "retrospective" mean in this context? MPs tried to pin the Chancellor down, but he would not have it.

The most likely inference is that all pension contributions made up to the date a tax was imposed would be tax free when finally taken as a lump sum. Contributions made subsequently would be taxable. If this proves a correct guess, the change would take a good 40 years to work fully into the pension system and would bring in minimal revenue in the early years.

Another inference, however, is that any new tax would not be backdated from the time the 1985 Finance Bill was passed to the date it was first announced in the Budget statement. If that is what the Chancellor meant, we are in for a far more sweeping tax change.

Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, did not clarify matters when he told a conference of businessmen yesterday: "None of you need rush to retire between now and the Budget."

The Government is certainly not committed to a tax lump sum. Nothing has been said about taxing pension contributions or pension fund investments. The air therefore will remain thick with doubt. The CBI, amongst others, remains "extremely concerned." The National Association of Pension Funds merely welcomes the statement "as far as it goes."

On the subject of mortgage interest relief, the Prime Minister, declared her unequivocal support on Wednesday. She told the National Housebuilders' Council, "you want mortgage interest relief to continue. It will." She did not make clear, however, whether, as many suspect, the rate of relief will be reduced from marginal rates to a flat 30 per cent.

She also said that the Government would vigorously resist any attempt to introduce value added tax on new housing.

Harmony at Lazards; strife at Montagu

Sir John Nott, the defence secretary at the time of the Falklands conflict, is to succeed Mr Ian Fraser as chairman and chief executive of Lazards Brothers when Mr Fraser reaches the bank's retirement age of 62 in August. A number of other important appointments and promotions have been made.

At Samuel Montagu, in very different circumstances, Mr Stiffan Gadd is leaving his £139,000 a year chairmanship after a clash of wills, unusual in the refined environment of merchant banking parlours.

Swedish born Mr Gadd has served four years of a seven-year contract with Montagu: his departure will involve "substantial" compensation.

Midland Bank owners of Montagu with US insurance group, Aetna Life and Casualty, said that because of the rapidly changing nature of domestic and international financial markets it felt that the Montagu's strategic development required integration at policy level so that "Aetna, Midland and Montagu mobilize their combined resources and expertise as effectively as possible". Mr Gadd, who is to be succeeded by Sir Michael Palliser, the former head of the diplomatic service and previously a Montagu non-executive director, believed in a degree of independence which Montagu's shareholders decided was unacceptable.

Mr Gadd's abrupt resignation is a by-product of the major corporate and structural changes that have been occurring in the City over the last two years - changes to which Mr Walter Wriston directs his experienced mind in the last of six articles published in *The Times* on this subject (page 27).

News of Mr Gadd's departure was released by the Midland Bank late on Wednesday night. In 11 Mr Gadd said: "In view of the differences over development policy I think it better to resign in an amicable way and pursue other interests."

His departure should quell persistent suggestions that Midland is about to sell its interest in Montagu.

Mr Fraser would not admit it, but he must have been quietly smiling to himself about the Montagu blood letting as he contemplated the deliberately restrained attitude Lazard has taken to events now changing the face of the City. He may have been thinking of brokers W Greenwell, which is being bought by Montagu when he asked: "Why splash out £50 million of goodwill on a stockbroker or jobber? £50 million spent on goodwill is £50 million off your capital base and £50 million less available for banking?" Incidentally, Greenwell's senior partner, Mr Gordon Pepper, is joining the Montagu board as part of the shake-up.

"With all these conflicts of interest building up", Mr Fraser, who will be retiring to his farm in Somerset to rear sheep, said, "I think the whole system is heading for the most costly problems." Sir John Nott, who while at S G Warburg in the early 1960s was responsible for inventing the Municipal Yearling bond, believes there are rich rewards to be had by adopting the "niche approach" to change.

Among yesterday's new appointments at Lazard's was Mr Gilbert Scharf, aged 36, a US citizen and for many years a managing director of Morgan Stanley. He will be responsible for developing the kind of capital markets activities which have made Lazard Freres in New York into one of the most highly profitable investment banking operations in the United States.

Mr Scharf is a long-standing associate of Mr Mezza-Cappa, the partner of Lazard Freres in New York who has developed specialized block trading in debt and equities into a minor art form. Mr Scharf hopes to repeat his success in Britain. His will be a quite different market making business from that other merchant banks are attempting to set up. And Sir John hopes, much more profitable.

Mr David Verrey, is to become, at the age of 34, deputy chief executive and managing director of the merchant bank. Mr Verner Wylie, Mr Tom Manners and Mr Peter Grant become deputy chairmen, and Mr Marcus Agius aged 38, will be a managing director.

Hambro Life suspends shares after mystery bid approach

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Mark Weinberg's life assurance group Hambro Life halted dealings in its shares yesterday later confirming it had received a bid approach.

After the suspension there was immediate speculation that Charterhouse J. Rothschild, the investment management and banking group, had sold its 24.9 per cent shareholding to a potential bidder.

There had been heavy turnover in the shares before they were halted at 495p, up 25p on the day, valuing the group at £580 million. The shares have come up from 357p this year.

Mr Weinberg said: "We have received an approach for our shares. It is a serious approach and because the share price started moving we decided to call a halt to dealings". He declined to comment on whether the would-be bidder was a British or American group. "At this stage I cannot comment further. There should be a further statement from us by Monday at the latest".



Mark Weinberg (left) and Jacob Rothschild: cooperation in certain areas

BAT Industries was being strongly tipped as a likely bidder. It already owns the Eagle Star insurance business, which it bought for more than £900 million. A spokesman said: "We don't comment on market rumours".



Mark Weinberg (left) and Jacob Rothschild: cooperation in certain areas

The Charterhouse stake had been thought to be up for sale since the two groups failed to agree on a £1,000 million merger in the summer. Charterhouse bought the block of 30 million shares from Hambro, the merchant bank which had been steadily reducing its

holding in the insurance group, for 410p a share. If it has struck a deal, it stands to make a considerable profit on its investment.

Other potential suitors being linked with Hambro Life include the American banking group Citicorp, and Security Pacific.

Mr Jacob Rothschild, head of CJR, had hoped to create with Mr Weinberg's expertise in life assurance a formidable financial services operation and acquired his shareholding as a keystone of the deal.

But while their discussions went on there were widespread rumblings that all was not well and the market began to adopt a jaundiced view of the financial merits of the marriage.

In the end the groups agreed that a "financial merger would be likely to be valued at less than the sum of its two parts" - and Rothschild was left with its stake in exchange for vague mutterings about cooperation in certain areas.

End curbs on textile imports, says study

By Sarah Hogg

Britain would benefit from ending import restrictions on textiles and clothing, according to a report commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Professor Aubrey Silberston, of Imperial College, was asked to study the effect on Britain of export and import restrictions in textiles and clothing, in preparation for an international review of the third Multi-Fibre Arrangement, which expires in 1986.

Professor Silberston concludes that Britain would gain free trade liberalization and that job losses in the textile and clothing industry would be more than offset by employment gains elsewhere in the economy. Aided by economic simulations by Cambridge Econometrics, he finds that:

● The system of import quotas adds about 10 per cent to the prices of imported textiles and clothing and 5 per cent to the domestic prices of such goods.

● Between 10,000 and 50,000 jobs in the textile and clothing industry would be lost if the import restrictions were to be wound down.

● About 150,000 more jobs are likely to be lost in these two industries in Britain by the early 1990s, because of the need to achieve rapid increases in productivity in order to compete with suppliers who do have access to Britain.

● The cost to the British consumer of import restrictions amounted to more than £10,000 per job saved in 1982 prices. This was more than the value-added per employee in these industries and nearly twice as much as their average earnings in 1982.

The gains from liberalization would be thinly spread across the economy, while the costs would be concentrated in certain regions. However, Professor Silberston, said, would be dangerous to be swayed unduly by this consideration, since it leads in the direction of rigidity and progressive weakening.

Leading article, page 13

MPs reject further aid for BNOC

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Losses on oil trading by the Government's British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) will be debated by Parliament next Tuesday. A recommendation will be put to the House that no further aid should be given unless the Government admit that BNOC is being used deliberately to support the world oil price.

The Parliamentary Energy Select Committee has approved the additional £45 million that BNOC is now being given by the Government to cover losses on North Sea oil trading.

However, the committee said yesterday: "What the committee believes quite acceptable would be for any further supplementary estimate to be presented in the New Year to cover further losses by BNOC unless the Government is prepared expressly to announce that it is policy to use BNOC's agreements to support the price of oil."

"The committee, the House and the country will not want to see good money following what may turn out to have been bad."

The committee says that after its investigation into the role of BNOC and its need for

£45 million of Government finance to cover losses it believes that the Government does not have a policy for North Sea prices and should take responsibility.

BNOC argued before the committee that the rules under which it operated gave it little room for manoeuvre. The corporation lost money because it was committed to buy in oil on contract at a price lower than it could sell it for on the open market after its long-term purchasers ended their contracts.

The committee adds: "In principle, the committee believes that giving the trading arm of Government a separate name and corporate identity need not necessarily be wrong, but it considers that government should not have tried to exercise any influence in establishing North Sea oil prices are at best unhelpful and at worst misleading."

The Government's role in North Sea oil pricing will be defended in the Commons next Tuesday by the Energy Minister Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith on the eve of a full-scale ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Output falls in factories after gains

By David Smith

Manufacturing output fell by 0.7 per cent in October - against the trend of recent months. However, increased North Sea oil production, together with a small rise in coal output, resulted in a 0.8 per cent increase in overall industrial production.

Despite the October fall, manufacturing output in the latest three months was 1.3 per cent up on the previous period. The chemicals industry, which is benefiting from sterling weakness against the dollar, raised its output by 5 per cent over the latest three months. Electrical and instrument engineering, including computers, was up 3 per cent, and motor vehicles and parts' output was up 4 per cent.

October's fall in manufacturing output is partly explained by an upward revision of the figures for earlier months.

The Department of Trade and Industry's latest investment intentions survey shows that manufacturing industry plans to increase investment by 7 per cent in 1985, compared with 1984, followed by a slowdown in 1986.

Pound falls to \$1.19

Sterling dropped 95 points to \$1.1900 yesterday, as the dollar was boosted by a 1.8 per cent jump in US retail sales last month, and the oil market remained weak.

The dollar was generally strong, gaining nearly two pence against the Deutsche mark to DM3.1047. The dollar index rose 0.3 to 143.1, while the sterling index fell 0.2 to 74.3.

Sterling also lost 80 points to DM3.6935 against the Deutschmark, and nearly three pence to Fr11.3225 against the French franc.

AE recovers

AE, the motor components group, made a sharp recovery in its pretax profits from £400,000 to £17.3 million for the year to the end of September. A final dividend of 2.5p is recommended, boosting the total for the year from 1.4p to 4.25p.

Smith record

Smith Brothers yesterday produced record first-half earnings, up 123 per cent to £1.78 million, despite losses from the international dealing side. The second half has started well and international trading is improving. *Tempus*, page 25

Unigate ahead

Unigate, the dairy and meat products group, has increased pretax profits for the six months to September 30 to £25.9 million, up from £23.6 million. Turnover increased from £855.5 million to £931.1 million. The interim dividend is lifted to 3p, against 2.75p last time. *Tempus*, page 25

Team work

Mr David Evans, chairman of the Brengreen cleaning group, in which Mr Michael Ashcroft's conglomerate Hawley Group has acquired a 14.9 per cent stake, said that if Hawley made a full bid, "At the right price Evans and Ashcroft would make a formidable team in the cleaning business." In the stock market yesterday Brengreen shares rose a further 2½p to 59p.

Dividend up

RHP, the bearing manufacturer, is to pay a final dividend of 1.75p (0.75p) for the year to September 28, after improvement in profits from £660,000 to £6.2 million. At the earnings level, RHP has swung from losses of £1.3 million to profits of £5.1 million. Sales improved from £102 million to £106 million. *Tempus*, page 25

Greycoat in £66m takeover

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Greycoat City Offices has made a £66 million agreed bid for Churchbury Estates and the minority interests of Law Land in a cash and shares offer.

The directors of Greycoat, Churchbury and the minority shareholders in Law Land have agreed terms to acquire all the ordinary shares in Churchbury and Law Land.

Sir Henry Warner, the former chairman of Law Land, has agreed to accept the offer for the 10.7 per cent of the Law Land shares not held by Churchbury therefore obtaining better terms for minority shareholders.

The takeover means that Mr Oliver Marriott, Churchbury Estates' chairman, will cease to have any connection with the merged company.

As recompense the four executive directors will receive a total of £291,000, with Mr Marriott receiving £97,000. Mr Marriott said that he had enough confidence in the Greycoat board whose chairman is Lord Chelmer, not to want representation in the merged company.

Churchbury shareholders will be offered 12 Greycoat ordinary shares and unsecured loan shares for every four shares with three Law Land shares being exchanged for either two Greycoat ordinary shares and/or cash or loan stock.

The new Greycoat ordinary shares will rank at the same rate as existing shares.

Waddington bid lapses

Mr Robert Maxwell's £44 million takeover bid for John Waddington was formally defeated last night. By the close, Mr Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation had gained acceptance of only 7.06 per cent of the shares for his 500p a share cash offer.

Waddington shares dropped 37p to 465p as the bid lapsed yesterday afternoon. Mr Maxwell had conceded defeat 24 hours earlier, although he thought that a subsequent drop in the Waddington share price might cause some institutional holders which had supported the board to change sides.

Record sales in US shops

From Bailey Morris, Washington

US retail sales increased strongly last month, rising 1.8 per cent to a record \$110.3 billion (£92.7 billion).

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said the November gain was a healthy and welcome sign of continued growth in the midst of a downturn which has adversely affected almost every sector of the US economy.

Commerce department officials said that the figures reflected an early burst of Christmas shopping resulting in the strongest monthly gain since April. Economists blame a sudden drop in consumer demand during the summer for

the dramatic slowdown in US growth.

But both administration officials and private economists warned against a leading too much into the November figure. Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury secretary, said that he feared the Christmas selling season will be less buoyant than expected because of continuing high interest rates.

As concern over the slowdown has increased, pressure has grown on the US Federal Reserve Board, which acts as a central bank, to ease credit control. Mr Regan has criticized the board's monetary policies as "penurious".

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	927.8 (+5.3)
FT-A All Share	574.18 (+1.59)
FT Govt Securities	82.58 (-0.33)
FT-SE 100	1196.7 (+8.0)
Bargains	28.495
Dalastream USM	105.78 (-0.64)
New York	1173.91 (-1.21)
Tokyo	11,340.05 (-42.29)
Nikkei Dow	11,340.05 (-42.29)
Hong Kong	1126.49 (+8.26)
Amsterdam	178.5 (+0.1)
Sidney: AO	716.4 (-4.9)
Frankfurt	1084.5 (-2.6)
Brussels	158.22 (-0.09)
General	180.9 (unchanged)
Paris: CAC	318.80 (-0.5)
Zurich	318.80 (-0.5)

GOLD

London: 400m	\$324.25
close	\$325.50 (\$272.50-273)
New York	\$324.80
Comex (latest)	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Peak Hedges	23 +3
High Point	265 +30
S. Simpson	280 +25
Inter-City Inv	32 +3
Ass Brit Int	117 +1
Harold Ingram	125 +1
Equity Law	265 +19
Rockware	28 +2
McCarthy	230 +18 1/2
Westpool Int Tr	72 +5
Energy Fin	32 +2
VW Thermo	18 +8
Botswana	15 +1
FALLS:	
CPU Computers	67 -21
Canemcor	11 -75
Parkallen	700 -100
Accom Computers	67 -8
OK Bazzars	625 -80
Zygal	45 -5
Castle (GB)	20 -3
Fobel Int	10 -1
Joe Ferguson	20 -2
Dewok Grp	192 -16
Metal Sciences	12 -1

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.1900 (-0.0095)	
DM: \$3.6555 (-0.0060)	
S: DM \$3.0455 (-0.0175)	
FF: \$11.3225 (-0.0280)	
Yen: 294.50 (-1.0)	
Index: 74.3 (-0.2)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.1900	
DM: \$3.1047	
\$ Index: 143.1 (+0.3)	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base 9% - 9%	
3-month interbank 9% - 9%	
3-month eligible bills 9% - 9%	
Buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate 11 25 - 11.50	
Federal Funds 8%	
3-month Treasury Bills 8 25 - 8 25	
Long bond 10 1/2% - 10 1/2%	

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ACCOUNT	EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE NET OF BASIC RATE TAX*	GROSS ANNUAL INTEREST RATE OR EQUIVALENT*
ABBEY NATIONAL - CHEQUE-SAVE - NEW APPLIED RATE = 8.00% FOR £2,500 +	8.16%	11.65%
MIDLAND - HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.89%	9.84%
M & G/KLEINWORT BENSON - HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.82%	9.74%
TYNDALL - MONEY ACCOUNT	6.80%	9.71%
SCHRODERS - SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR £10,000+	6.76%	9.65%
BRITANNIA/CATER ALLEN - HIGH INTEREST CURRENT ACCOUNT	6.76%	9.65%
BANK OF SCOTLAND - MONEY MARKET CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.76%	9.65%
BARCLAYS - PRIME ACCOUNT	6.70%	9.57%
SAVE & PROSPER - PREMIER HIGH INTEREST BANK ACCOUNT	6.59%	9.41%

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* Interest rates shown are the annual percentage rates where interest is compounded. Interest rates may vary. Source of comparative rate information: F1 Money Market Bank Accounts, 12th Dec. 1984.

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Please send full details and an application card.

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Full name(s) Mr/Ms/Ms. _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

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TEMPUS

Unigate figures lack lustre

Unigate's profit and loss account which glittered so brightly when full year figures were announced in July is looking in need of a little polish. Yesterday's interim pretax profits of £25.9 million were up by 10 per cent but still gave the appearance of being dull.

To be fair to the company's management, which has made great efforts to smarten Unigate's appearance and performance, the problems were not of its own making. As with Northern Foods, which reported the day before, the main difficulties came from pigs and milk.

High pig prices and stiff competition in the meat activities and Unigate estimated that the three month delay in putting through the 1p increase on a pint of milk cost £1.6 million.

Unigate's dairy product range and its marketing thrust will allow it to take advantage of the trend towards low fat dairy products and the purchase of J P Wood, the poultry company, could prove to be timely and profitable.

However, the group is still struggling to reduce its borrowings. There will be little fall at the year end and there is just a hint that working capital is threatening to get out of hand again.

The implications of this are not lost on Unigate's management, and the much tighter financial controls now in place should ensure that a tight rein on the group's finances is maintained. The group has a solid foundation in its core businesses and while spectacular growth might not be the order of the day, the basic corporate strategy should lead to steady improvement. The shares were down 5p to 151p but will not excite until the group's earnings potential materializes.

RHP

RHP's struggle to survive in the 1980s has included capital reconstruction, factory closures, slashed dividends, redundancies, a drive on costs, and all the other techniques of modernization which ought to have been applied in the industry over the past century. A tenfold improvement in pretax profits to £6.2 million, accompanied by news of a sharp reduction in debt and a 133 per cent improvement in the final dividend, points to a comeback only marginally less spectacular than Lazarus'. But is the recovery sustainable?

A sales gain of just 3 per cent to about £106 million provides investors with vital clues. According to RHP, the turnover figure comprises static volumes, but takes in a deliberate drive away from the old low margin-high volume business in the direction of better margin activities. Here RHP can exploit its high technology background, and command better prices.

Hence RHP's capacity cuts add up to a lower breakeven point, implying in turn that the improved orderbook is written at sensible tariffs and really is a proxy for better earnings.

At 82p, the shares have outperformed the market by

105 per cent in the last year. Investors ought to climb aboard. In 1980, RHP was making £10 million pretax.

Smith Brothers

Wounds of playing the international securities game appear separately for the first time on the half-year profit and loss account of Smith Brothers, the market's third largest stockbroker.

Losses here for the six months to October 26 grew from £291,000 to £1.3 million. Smith is a big player in the gold share market and few have had a good time this year. Smith's losses are accentuated by start-up costs of the new international dealership Smith New Court, where N M Rothschild has a 49 per cent stake.

The bank holds 29.9 per cent of the Stock Exchange firm. Mr Tony Lewis, Smith's chairman, admits its name and financial position has helped business. Profits made from the floor of the London Stock Exchange, both in stocks and traded options, boomed from just over £1 million to £3.15 million.

At the pretax level profits increased 123 per cent to £1.789 million. Mr Lewis is positive about the second-half which is barely a month old. As a sign of confidence the dividend is lifted 50 per cent to 1.5p.

AE

The stock market's reaction to full-year figures from AE, the motor components manufacturer, showing pretax profits had leapt from £400,000 to £17.3 million, was one of mild disappointment and the shares closed 1p lower at 107p. This was mean even if AE's splendid recovery was well anticipated.

The group has rarely been in such good shape and things can only get better by the look of it. The motor components market as a whole was down last year but helped by booming exports and significant further penetration of the home market, sales by the British-based companies rose 14 per cent in volume. AE was especially successful in taking market share from its old bid adversary, Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds.

Growth by the overseas companies was more pedestrian but even so, when added to the export performance, more than half of AE's sales were outside Britain last year.

Despite much higher capital expenditure and the costs of servicing the big upturn in volume, there was a cash inflow into the group last year of £6.5 million after taking account of the £15 million the group made on the disposal of Edmunds Walker, its distribution network. This enabled AE to cut its gearing level from 100 per cent to 60 per cent.

The group disposed of its last big remaining problem area when it sold Walker in August and though South Africa remains troublesome and France unprofitable, the group looks easily capable of achieving a £25 million profit this year. At 107p the shares yield 5.7 per cent.

Americans go for Whitbread

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

American investors have suddenly acquired the taste for the Whitbread brewing group. In active trading yesterday the shares jumped 7p to 214p, their highest level.

The Whitbread buying spree was accompanied by suggestions that the group is about to extend its already significant interest in the American wines and spirits industry.

Two months ago, Whitbread splashed out £91 million for the Buckingham Corporation which

the group's 55 per cent jump in annual profits, and is looking kindly on the gradual change in its earnings profile. API is making a switch away from its traditional paper making business into new products and growth areas.

A line of 375,000 API shares was put through the market yesterday without damaging the new trading peak for the price.

Powell Duffryn received a boost from takeover talk. Hanson Trust are said to be interested in making a bid for Powell, as well as for a few others on the London lists, and the Powell share price rose 10p to 336p.

Metal Box, another share apparently on the Hanson shopping list, gained 4p more to 382p.

Hanson Trust itself slipped back 4p to 289p. But this is also a traditional time of year for investment managers to switch out of Hanson and seek price performance elsewhere.

BTR usually benefits from the move away from Hanson, and there were signs of that. The BTR price gained 15p to 559p. City men are also looking forward to the BTR year-end in two weeks' time, and analysts are getting their figures ready for pre-announcement circulars.

Turner & Newall stayed on the list of market favourites, rising 5p to 111p after a recent meeting with analysts and improved profit forecasts from certain stockbroking firms.

Morecambe Holdings, the fire protection specialists, burst into life with a 13p rise to 173p, a new peak for the shares. The company got a mention in a City newsletter and is due to report full-year figures soon.

The market confidently expects the group to beat the £1.2 million profit forecast made at the time of its stock market debut in February.

Newcomer Penny & Giles began USM market life at a price of 158p, comfortably up on the 130p placing price. The company, which makes high technology measurement and control equipment, had 23.5 per cent of its shares placed through Quilter Goodison, the stockbroker.

Canover Investments, the management buy-out and risk equity specialist, gained a price of 178p on its first day, against a placing price of 160p a share.

Oil was fairly steady behind falling crude prices. Barmah Oil was again influenced by takeover suggestions, equalling its share peak at 225p.

Imperial Chemical Industries jumped 18p to 688p, just below its peak. The shares were helped by American buying, the encouraging tone at a pharmaceutical seminar and the takeover.

A chat with Simon & Coates, the stockbroker, has done Meggin Holdings a world of good. The company met the broker this week, and yesterday the share price rose 6p to 60p. Simon & Coates believe that Meggin, under the direction of Mr Ken Coates and Mr Nigel McCorkell, has a bright future.

The two directors bought into the machine tool group just over a year ago, having made their names in the successful build-up of Flight Refuelling.

over of the chemical operations of the US Beatrice group.

Vaux Breweries held at 242p after its profits and share placing. Management Agency and Music continued to respond to the share interest taken by Chrysalis. At one time, the shares reached 160p

before closing unchanged at 154p.

The profit fell out 11p from the Canvermoor soft drinks group at 75p while CPU Computers fell 21p to 67p on the break-even annual meeting statement. Eeven came in for mid-morning attention, jumping 3p to 66p on, it was thought, US interest.

Gilts were a weak market and by the close long-dated stocks had fallen by as much as a point. Sellers were influenced by the weakness of sterling against the dollar.

US bonds were also tired, after poor US retail sales figures, despite cuts in American broker loan rates, and Wall Street sentiment badly needs the encouragement of good money supply figures. In London, however, index-linked stocks outperformed conventional gilts, closing about a quarter up, after profit taking, after favourable comment in The Times.

Ratners, the jewellery retail chain, pushed close to its best trading level, rising 2p to 53p. Yesterday saw the shareholders' meeting to confirm the company's takeover of Terry's, a chain of 26 shops, and the share price rose marked City enthusiasm for the purchase.

Ratners is also in the midst of its best selling season, Christmas, although the benefits will not be apparent in the half-year figures due in January.

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is a monthly investment newsletter concentrating on capital growth opportunities in the exciting and fast-moving electronics, communications and computer industries. In our current issue we introduce the latest US investment key, the Sales to Price ratio. Our main feature profiles a company delivering more of a unique new product in November and December than its entire sales last year. We also analyse Volex and Immediate Business Systems, and comment on ACT, Brikat, ST, CASE, Comsoft, DDT, FXI, Helix, Imtec, Plessey, Tadpole and Telecomputing. For a FREE sample copy and subscription details, send name and address (block capitals please) to: TECHINVEST (172), 888 House, Millbrook, Nias, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

Arthur Lee & Sons plc

Manufacturers and Distributors of Bright Steel Bar, Strip, Wire, Wire Rope and Injection Moulded Plastics

PRELIMINARY RESULTS TO 30th SEPTEMBER 1984

	1984 £000's	1983 £000's
Turnover	64,738	56,318
Profit/(Loss) before taxation and extraordinary items	1,526	(571)
Profit/(Loss) after taxation and extraordinary items	868	(624)
Earnings/(Loss) per share	3.18p	(2.11p)
Dividend for year per share	1.20p	0.6p

- * Turnover for year increased by 15%.
- * Profit for half-year to 30th September highest for the past five years.
- * Rationalisation measures undertaken in steel strip, wire and bar production bearing fruit.
- * Injection moulded plastic products strengthen Group's established product range.
- * Annual dividend doubled.

Eight consecutive years of increased profit.



Results for the year to 30 September:-

	1984 £m	1983 £m	Increase %
Sales	122	111	10
Profits before tax	8.1	7.3	11
Dividends per share	5.40p	4.92p	10

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement:-

- * Progress in all geographic areas
- * Establishment of a substantial publication and magazine business
- * Continued investment in new technology
- * High quality of operating management
- * Current order books at record levels

A copy of the full report and accounts will be available from the Company Secretary, McCORQUODALE PLC, McCORQUODALE House, 15 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0HT.

MCCORQUODALE

International Specialist Printers

Whitecroft
Record interim profit of £3.8m

	1984 £	1983 £
Turnover	51.3m	43.7m
Pre-tax profit	3.8m	2.7m
Dividend	2.3p	2p

Whitecroft made an excellent start to the year with profit before taxation the highest ever achieved for a six month period. The trading results include a profit of £1 million from property development and the other divisions of the group increased total profit by 23%, more than offsetting the effect of businesses sold and deconsolidated.

An interim dividend of 2.30p per ordinary share, 15% higher than last year, will be paid.

With the continuing development of the group, we expect a significant improvement in profit for the year as a whole.

Mr. John Tavaré - chairman

Whitecroft plc

Textiles, building supplies, lighting, property development

A copy of the interim report may be obtained from:

The Secretary, Whitecroft plc, Water Lane,

Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5BX

Telephone: 0625 524677

Further diversification

reports Paul Nicholson, the chairman

Our policy of diversification has continued to pay off and we have recently announced the purchase of 65 fully stocked off-licences at a cost of £3.3m and two public houses in London at a cost of £1.2m.

Pre-tax profits for the year to 29 September 1984 at £13.03 million—up £957,000—continue the unbroken trend since 1968.

A final dividend of 6.65p per share net makes a total for the year of 10.05p—an increase of almost 11% over last year.

While beer profits did not reach last year's levels partly because of the miners' strike, hotel profits and wines and spirits profits are well ahead and now account for 42% of the total.

Developments during the year include a franchise agreement to brew Tuborg lager and major alterations in 47 existing pubs and the acquisition of 4 pubs, 35 off-licences and the 210 bedroom St. John's Hotel, Solihull.

Sales and profits have started well in the current year.

We plan to dispose of Fred Koch brewery, New York State, and have included as an extraordinary item £0.8 million as the possible loss occurring on disposal.

To reflect the change in the emphasis of the company's activities, we are proposing to shareholders to change our name to "Vaux Group plc", of which the principal divisions will be Vaux Breweries, Wards and Darleys Breweries, Swallow-Hotels and James Bell wines and spirits.

Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available after 21 December 1984 from The Secretary, The Brewery, Sunderland SR1 3AN.



RHP Group plc

Preliminary Results for the 52 weeks ended 28 September 1984

- Sustained Progress
- Substantial Profit Improvement
- Improved Margins
- Further £7m Cash Inflow
- Order Books Strengthened
- Increased Dividend

BRIEFING

Venture capital: the neat breakthrough

business-administration courses at Strathclyde.

Initially, the HIBD provided him 3,000 square feet of portable huts at Ballachulish at the mouth of Loch Leven, near Glencoe. Last year he moved into a custom-built, 9,000 sq ft factory, again provided by the HIBD, at Ballachulish, where he now employs four workers and is looking for a fifth.

To fund the expansion he raised £40,000 from the Parsons Venture Capital fund and the HIBD. Turnover is now about £80,000 a year and expected to rise as foreign markets expand. The US, where sector sales are now the same as Britain, is set

"He's not seeing anyone unless they are carrying embarrassingly expensive presents for him"

McNicol claims. With a direct-sale agreement with a cooperative chain on the West Coast and an agent in New York, he is estimating a 10 per cent share of US ice axe sales this year giving him a vital pre-boom foothold.

Apart from a standard line of four different ice axes and a climbing hammer, selling at £44 each, Mountain Technology also manufactures pitons, snow stakes and avalanche probes. It also makes Hamish Melnes-designed rescue stretchers (about 80 a year) and other rescue equipment to customer specifications.

The metal components are all forged under contract by a Birmingham firm. 'I could never do that myself, it would be too expensive,' he says. They are then ground down and finished at North Ballachulish.

Hugh McNicholl in his Scottish factory: "combining function with a good-looking product"

Under the LENTA-inspired scheme, Lenta would carry out the assessment of a small company's financial and trading prospects. It would still leave the pension fund to make a final judgment but the company must cost would not fall on the fund.

The cost of accountant monitoring subsequently would be met by the small business involved but give the importance such management information is keeping companies on the right track it would be value for money, said Mr Wright.

Investments under the new scheme of between £5,000 and £20,000 should be possible, according to Mr Wright. There is still a remaining question on how the pension fund would eventually realise its investment in the small business. One way would be if the company grew

the bureau has found it needs to concentrate on getting right the personal chemistry between investor and small business because of their close association.

● The showcase project for new products from small businesses is also being considered by LEntA. A London West End location is likely but a decision on the format, whether a shop or a samples showroom, has still to be made.

Next year LEntA is to launch a scheme to help university graduates start their own businesses. It will be aimed primarily at graduates in design. Training will be provided, together with workshop or accommodation and subsequent counselling help.

● **Contact:** *London Enterprise Agency*, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB; phone (01) 236 2675.

Two stores in the South Suburban territory are being selected to be offered as food outlets in the open market. They are expected to open early next year as part of the experiment.

The Co-op convenience stores are trading under the banner of 'Lifestyle' and will also carry 'top up' items of food, newspapers and magazines, drinks and rented videos. They are also identified as Co-op outlets.

■ **Employing agencies**, now numbering around 200, are helping create 10,000 jobs a year. This emerges from a new study of agencies by Business in the Community, the umbrella body for the agency movement. The job creation figure is a 10 per cent increase on the number of jobs preserved in existing businesses advising which takes up 30 per cent of agency time.

[The page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS
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STELLA SCRIVENER**

BENEFITARY LIMITED
IS A COMPANY GIVEN pursuant
to Section 293 of the Companies Act,
1968, and has been incorporated in
England. Its registered office is at
W 42 FL on Thursday the 30th
of December 1968 at 12 noon.
For the purposes provided for in
Section 294 of the said Act,
on the 4th day of December
1968.

C.BRIDGEMAN
Director

HOLBROOKS LIMITED
IS A COMPANY GIVEN pursuant
to Section 293 of the Companies Act,
1968, and has been incorporated in
England. Its registered office is at
the Leamington IV CDD building
on the 18th day of December
1968 at 12 noon. The business
provided for in Sections 294
and 295 of the said Act,
on the 4th day of December
1968.

M.HAY,
Director.

8th Elphinstone Company Limited
is a company given pursuant to
Section 293 of the Companies Act,
1968, and has been incorporated in
England. It is a wholly-owned com-
pany which will be held by the
Trustees of the 8th Elphinstone
Trust on the 25th day of Decem-
ber 1968 at 12 noon. The business
provided for in the Extraordinary
Resolution No. 17 of the said Trust
was completed for the same day
and all matters have been concluded
in accordance with the provisions
of Sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.
on the 2nd day of December
1968.

R.A.D. Grewson
Secretary

on the 11th day of December
1968.

THE COMPANIES ACT 1968
SUBJECT MATTER OF AC VENDING

AC VENDING LIMITED
INCORPORATED IN GREAT BRITAIN
Friday 19th January
at 2.30 p.m.

[illegible]

SPECIAL PERSON

Female for Kensington family. **1** want conventional marry. Long-term help with 2 boys, 12 & 15 yrs. Daily house & mod. income available if necessary. Must be flexible, car driver, fully familiar with London, non-smoker, ultra clean, willing to share. Will live with our standards. Any other but good English essential. **1** salary.

1-937 9380

CO DIRECTOR sold 3000 shares of common stock to house maid in capital for up to six months with for \$750. Price \$70 per share.

GIRL 118, seeks partner now 24 years old, single, for 6 months. PO Box 5397, Zurich, Switzerland. Tel 010 93968.

FIELD LTD are specialists in the design and production of general technical literature and are seeking more sub contract for 6000 copies of works and

Bank of Japan

Walter Wriston talks to Peter Wilson-Smith

Master of change welcomes City's 'inevitable' revolution

If you were to look at the London market five years from now, it will be a mosaic. There will be some big hitters, there will be some boutiques, and there will be some guys on the margin. The big players will be the ones that can make the cultural change. If they can not do that, why then, they won't be players.

Adapting to change is a recurring theme in the Walter Wriston philosophy. It is one of the reasons, he believes, that Citicorp, from which he retired as chairman and chief executive in September, is where it is today and is one of only four companies listed on the New York stock market which has paid a dividend every year since 1812.

In the Wriston scale of things, the changes now afoot in London's securities industry are nothing less than inevitable. Full of praise for the attitude of the United Kingdom authorities and the Bank of England whose liberal approach allowed the Euromarkets to take root in London, he argues that the barriers between the free international market in London and the protected domestic market are now disappearing.

"I couldn't say strongly enough the global market place has moved from rhetoric to reality. It has to be built into your thinking and your corporate plan. The marriage of telecommunications and computers has really created something new under the sun. It is not a difference of degree, it is a difference of kind and therefore it is as revolutionary in my humble opinion as the invention of the steam engine or the automobile. I think we are just beginning to peer through the glass darkly. What it means is

basically there is no place to hide. "There is no separation any more between domestic and foreign markets. Communications being what they are, the global market would bring pressure on the London market to be more competitive on rates."

He sees London's fixed commissions as an anomaly which does not exist in the other big markets and stresses that the global market means that people have the option of trading shares anywhere. Technology has made that possible and has also dramatically altered the timescale in which financial transactions are undertaken. Mr Wriston recalls the time when Citibank had two board meetings and put out a thick prospectus just to raise \$100m. But communications and such innovation as self-registrations have changed all that.

"It is a matter of almost total indifference to our chief financial officer whether he raises five-year \$200 million in London or New York or any other good place. That was not true as recently as five years ago. And you have this extraordinary thing of windows opening or closing in 20 minutes."

Mr Wriston believes that the changes under way in London involving moving from fixed to negotiated commissions in the securities industry may have



Walter Wriston: there is no place to hide

similar consequences to those that ensued in New York in the 1970s. Indeed the changes may be rather more traumatic in London because of the present separation between jobbers and brokers in London.

"In the United States there were a lot of casualties. People with high fixed overheads were casualties, people who were not quick on their feet, who had built a cost structure based on fixed commissions," he says. He sees a shake-out of this kind as one of the consequences of suddenly removing the protection from any industry which has been accustomed to operating in a protected market.

So who will succeed in the new environment? Will it be those clearing banks which are welding together their own investment banking and securities trading arms? Will it be the groupings being formed around merchant banks or somebody else?

Mr Wriston has no doubt that Citicorp will be a key player. It is buying two significant London stockbrokers, Vickers, the Costa and Scrimgeour-Kemp-Gee which are merging next year, to form part of its global investment banking arm.

As for the others, Mr Wriston says: "Clearly the people that have a culture, experience and track record in capital raising have a head start; there is no question about that. Those are probably merchant banking types. People who have just been brokers, who adjust from a fixed commission to a free market without experience in the other sides of it, if there are such people, will, I suppose, have the worst of the lot."

He does not believe that sheer size alone will be the key to success and cites the example of Goldman Sachs in New York. "It is not the largest bank on the block but it is extremely able and extremely profitable and makes very good business."

Big is not necessarily beautiful but smart is," Mr Wriston says. However, Mr Wriston does not for a moment write-off the clearing banks as important participants. They will probably be major players in this area too but he stresses that they will have to adjust to the culture shock.

Citicorp's own experience in adapting itself to cope with conflicting cultures is instructive. Under Mr Wriston an investment banking group has been built up by welding mergers and acquisitions and then venture capital on to a large and international bond trading operation. Today, its investment bank ranks number one in the worldwide interest sales market, is among the top three dealers in US government securities and is one of the largest venture capital companies in the world.

To accommodate the cultural clashes, the merchant banking side was split five years ago in the same way that consumer banking had previously been separated from corporate banking. Today Citicorp embraces three separate businesses, individual, institutional and investment banking and there are two emerging embryos - insurance and information.

The structure is considered very much one of Mr Wriston's

We are beginning to peer through the glass darkly

legacies and insiders admit has sometimes been a painful but necessary process to allow the differing activities to develop to the full.

To what extent the clearing banks follow such a radical path remains to be seen. But Mr Wriston has no doubt that it is a problem, which has to be tackled. "It is not as easy as the books at business school tell you it is, because they are all human beings involved."

However, Mr Wriston seems to feel that London still has plenty going for it as a financial centre. As for the British and their ability to adapt to change, he says: "I think the British were pioneers in global market-places in many respects in that they attracted to this island the Euromarket because the world had confidence that their funds would not be stolen, taxed away, frozen or whatever and to that extent I suppose they were the first people who understood it."

Brum-Brum as the second city hits the pedal on the road to glamour



Birmingham's recent sight and sound of things to come; spinning the grand prix wheels in the hub of England

The Monaco of the Midlands

Simon Barnes

Into the Pershore Street left-handers, face grim beneath their visors... through the east excitement of Bromsgrove Street... on past the mosque in a neo-oriental bazaar... on round into the unforgiving vista of Bristol Street... can you smile that much longer? Who could ever deny that Birmingham is the most exciting city in the world?

Yes, the Birmingham motor racing grand prix is flying high in a howling gale of local enthusiasm and the would-be organizers are talking excitedly about holding motor racing in the very streets of Birmingham in the summer of 1986. "All they now need is parliamentary approval," a Bill was deposited in the House of Commons from a car driven by Sideling Moss at the end of November, and if all goes according to the hopes of its backers, will get royal assent by next July. The leader of the Birmingham City Council, Dick Knowles ("Sit down, however"), estimates the chances at 70-30 in favour.

And they are awfully, tub-thumping and patriotically serious about the whole motor race notion over at the Birmingham Council House. So

much so that the party political guerrillas of council corridors have established a tree on the lesser tree voted 90 in favour and 13 against taking the scheme to parliament. Parliament must give the nod before the streets can be closed off for the event.

"A motor race will put over the true image of Birmingham to the world," declared Councillor Knowles, bubbling over with joy at the thought of the television cameras of the world pointing at the green trees and high rise blocks of the city. "Second city? I reckon Birmingham is the first city."

It is generally accepted that Birmingham is the most boring place in England, if not the world, lacking both northern character and southern glitz. Birmingham people disagree but the image didn't matter too much when Birmingham was simply a manufacturing centre. But with the decline of manufacturing industries Birmingham has been promoting itself as the place for tourism, conventions and exhibitions no matter what else is true about Birmingham. It is dead easy to get to. Birmingham stages the Motor Show, Tourism, for what they call the Heart of England area was worth £35 million in 1983.

"What Birmingham lacks," said Marjorie Brown tellingly, "is an Eiffel Tower." The chairman of the council's general purposes committee went on to elaborate: she meant a symbol, a knee-jerk image. The knee-jerk notion is, in truth,

Birmingham equally boring. That is bad for business. Now Monaco is different. Monaco equals motor racing, on the very streets. Glamour and class adhere in an instant. Birmingham is renowned for an image of glamour and class.

Martin Home was the man who came up with the notion originally in 1970. He has a disconcerting habit of quoting biblical quotations into his conversation: but he did not describe himself as the voice of one crying in the wilderness. He wouldn't like you to think of his beloved Birmingham as a wilderness.

Hone runs International Festival Services, who produce the race on the council's behalf. He has also staged for the council a number of rallies and motor rallies full of historic racing cars, driven by such people as Parnis, Moss, Brabham, Hunt and Salvadori. Hone was a racing car driver himself (he drove Parnishes) and is in love with the game and with the prospect of bringing it on to the streets of Birmingham.

The proposed circuit itself has been changed and the current version is on roads that were not even built in 1970. Sad to say, the notion of a road race was not even considered. The plan is to start with a programme of international championship events.

"It is not our aim to take over the British Grand Prix," Hone said. "That is jealously guarded and quite rightly. But there is a place for us too. Last year the British Grand Prix attracted 161,000 people over three days. Last summer on the Streets rally attracted in a single afternoon 200,000 people. The race will do more than anything else to put over the image of Birmingham as a glamorous and exciting place."

Glamorous Birmingham remains a hard idea to take. It is a 180-degree corner for most of us: can we handle that much change? "People come back from Monaco and say 'I drove the circuit'," Hone said. "I believe it will not be long before they say the same thing of Birmingham."

RUGBY UNION: COLOURFUL AUSTRALIANS CHOOSE 37-YEAR-OLD

Australians go all sentimental - British gallery seeks recovery of lost art

By Gerald Davies

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent
The Australians, showing a welcome sentimentality, have included in the side to play the Barbarians at Cardiff tomorrow, those senior players who, for various reasons, missed selection for the internationals on the current tour.

They include Hawker, Cox Roche (who played against Ireland), Reynolds, and the engine of Pilecki who at 37, does not expect to be touring for his country again. However, this does restore to the side all but two of the players who ran New Zealand so close in three internationals during the summer.

The first exception is Moon, the left wing, who broke his arm playing against England and returned home last month. Campese moves to that wing, and Hawker, normally a centre and used much on this tour as a stand-off half, plays on the right, leaving the distinctive, fruitful partnership with Slack in the centre.

The other omission is that of Rodriguez, who has had such an outstanding year in Australian colours. Pilecki is his replacement, and the only slight regret is that Reynolds is to play, there is no place for the outstanding young No 8, Tuyenman. Not that he will mind; his tour deeds speak for themselves.

AUSTRALIANS: R. Gould, A. Hawker, A. Jack, M. Lynch, D. Campese, M. Ellis, P. Cox, S. Pilecki, T. Lewis, M. Reynolds, S. Williams, S. Carter, C. Roche, R. Reynolds, R. Pilecki, J. Pilecki, P. Gould, E. Rodriguez, W. Campbell, S. Truman.

I doubt very much whether rugby held much charm for Neville Cardus. But a good deal of what he perceived to be the essence of his game's character and the variety of its appeal, can often be seen in rugby.

"Go among the shilling crowd and find day," he once wrote of the Oval, "and what do you hear? Little technical jargon, little talk of off-breaks and the position of the left foot, but a lot of talk of the left foot."

Colin Deans, the Scotland hooker has pulled out of the Barbarians team he was to lead against Australia in the final match of their tour at Cardiff tomorrow.

He is replaced by Mike Watkins, but a new Barbarians captain has still to be named.

overall effect was what mattered to him: the completeness of the beautiful story.

And I do not suppose that the shoulder or the exact spacing of the feet in the ruck matters much to the man standing on the "tanner" bank at St Helens or, away from the coastal belt, in Eugene Cross Park. Although there is the tackle he can savour and the sinister magic of the sidestep, it is the general impression that appeals.

The art of any game is to conceal the artifice; not to give the game away by showing your intentions. The player's art, like the actor's art, should not reveal the energy and the thought, the sweat and the spit, and the theory that has gone on into rehearsal. Nor should the anxiety surface from beneath the skin.

Come the performance it somehow should look easy and effortless. This may seem a long way round to get to the Australians' game, but theirs has been made to seem easy and effortless. The observer is the measure of the details of their game, only of the overall colourful impression.

The trouble with our domestic game is that too many players look as if they have been reading too many books about the game and have brought their theories onto the field. As each forward bends his head and dips his shoulder, as each three-quarter labours along his path and the crowd move follows, they do so painfully, in the shadow of the textbook. Or rather, perhaps, in the shadow of the coach who has read the textbook. It is "the funnybone syndrome".

For the British game, the most inspiring moment of the week came in the Varsity match, as the students, particularly Cambridge, for once ignored their textbooks. It was not Bailey's run and swivel, marvellous though they were, that one remembers most, nor Hasting's sprint or Simm's try, but that very lonely moment for Andrew when he bravely changed his mind, ignored the obvious and, triumphantly, took a calculated risk on his own 22-metre line. There was a lot of forgotten British rugby in that.

Rives retires
Paris (Reuters) - Jean-Pierre Rives, the former French captain, announced his retirement from international rugby yesterday because of long-standing shoulder and neck injuries.

Trent's and the Ley's perfect term

By Michael Stevenson

Trent College have finished the term unbeaten for the first time this has been achieved since 1932, when Prince Obolesky was in the team. This autumn, Trent have registered 14 wins from 14 matches (the 1932 team drew one), scoring 331 points and conceding 107.

Their last match, against Worcester, was played in front of a considerable crowd: Trent won 62-15, scoring 11 tries, with 14 wins from as many matches and 34 points to 98 conceded. Their most recent victories were against Bedford Modern (19-3) and Bishop's Stortford (15-10).

The Ley's outstanding player and captain, their No 8, White, was injured against Bedford. The fly-half, Bailey, took over and scored all 15 points against Bishop's Stortford.

The Armadale School from New South Wales, who are coached by John Hipwell, have had a very successful tour. They beat Gordonstoun, Royal High School, Dundee and before going down to St Michael's, Dublin. They have recently visited Rugby where a delightful second-half display brought them victory (27-6) and Mill Hill, where they lost 24-6.

In spite of injury problems, Glenamole were victorious in both their southern matches, beating Marlborough on Monday (15-11) and Tonbridge on Wednesday (13-7).

Record profits as we move towards merger

Sir Michael Harris, Chairman

In an exciting year we achieved record profits of £131.3 million before tax, 37% higher than last year. These profits do not include any of the anticipated savings which will be made following the merger of our operating banks in late 1985.

Through the merger, by creating a single bank which will operate throughout Great Britain, we shall attain our objective of offering existing and potential customers a distinctive and efficient service through a unified organisation. Not the least of our reasons for taking this initiative is our desire to be ready to respond to the higher level of competition which we see emerging within the financial services industry.

Group Operations. We have achieved significant growth in all areas with domestic banking the major contributor to the very satisfactory results. It has been most encouraging that a large proportion of the increase in the number of current accounts is attributable to our decision to offer free banking throughout the Group for personal accounts in credit. This facility has been offered for some years by Williams & Glyn's Bank and has proved to be an outstanding success. It has now been extended to The Royal Bank of Scotland and we are confident that it will be particularly attractive to personal customers. On the lending side, both banks increased their involvement in the home mortgage market, while at the same time we achieved significant growth in consumer lending. Earnings from commissions and fees have continued to show a good increase. During the year our stake in Lloyds and Scottish plc was sold for £91.6 million.

The Future. We shall be seeking constantly to diversify our activities. For example, we have already submitted an application to allow us to provide car insurance through our own wholly-owned insurance company and we hope to sell our first policies early in the new year. The results achieved this year demonstrate our success in developing our business and improving profitability and balance sheet strength as we work steadily towards our merger. We are confident that we shall continue to build on the sound foundations for the future established by our two existing banks and to expand still further the business of the new Royal Bank of Scotland in the years ahead.

Key figures	Year ended 30 Sept 1984	Year ended 30 Sept 1983	Change
Profit before taxation	£131.5m	£95.5m	+37%
Total assets	£13,386m	£11,077m	+21%
Dividends per 25p ordinary share	8.5p	7.4p	+15%

Copies of the 1984 Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

BOBSLEIGH Phipps rips up British record book

From Chris Moore, Igls

Nick Phipps set his fourth British record of the season yesterday during practice for tomorrow's four-man event in the British Championships, sponsored by Alfred Suren. In the space of the last month the Londoner has also broken the two-man record at Berhof and the two and four-man records at Winterberg.

His time at 54.50sec on his opening run yesterday was 26 hundredths of a second inside the previous British best on the Austrian track, set last year by the defending champion here, John Deere, despite having so far had to use a replacement crewman for Paddy Bredin, who flies out from England to join the team tonight.

Deere was almost a second slower yesterday, but expected to get closer to Phipps tomorrow when he is being left a new sled by the former world champion, Eric Scherer.

With the world championships at Cervinia only a month away, the East Germans are threatening to continue their dominance of the sport. The Olympic champion, Wolfgang Hoppe, and the runner-up, Bernhard Lehmann, have been training here all week, along with the leading Swiss and Italian drivers, and have consistently been over a second faster than anyone else.

MOTOR RACING Williams-Honda sign with new sponsors

By John Blunsden

The Williams-Honda grand prix team cars of Keke Rosberg and Nigel Mansell will be seen in a new white, blue and yellow colour scheme next season and will be entered as "Canon Williams" following Frank Williams's signature on a "seven figure contract" with the Japanese camera and business machine manufacturers.

The new arrangement means that for the first time since 1978 the Williams cars will not carry any sponsorship from the Arab world, although JCI Fabrics, Denim and Mobil will continue to back the team.

A new car, designed by Patrick Head, is in an advanced stage of construction and will be the first Williams to be built around an entirely carbon-fibre chassis. It has been given the designation FW10.

Frank Williams has been anxious to secure Japanese sponsorship for his team ever since he switched to Honda engines, but his new change of backers, which he describes as being his largest-ever sponsorship deal, will not affect Canon's continuing support of Richard Lloyd's G1 Engineering team, which in 1985 will again be running their Porsche 956 Group C cars in major endurance races, including Le Mans.

GOLF More money to be earned on European tour

By Mitchell Platts

The spectacular growth of the Women's PGA tour continues with the announcement in London yesterday that the 1985 circuit will be worth £500,000, despite the loss of the Ladies British Open, which carried £160,000 in prize money.

There is evidence, as there is on the men's circuit, for increasing support on the continent with the Hennessy Cognac Cup (at St. Cloud, Paris), the Belgian Open, another event, to be finalized, each offering prize funds of £40,000.

The highlight of the British season, which will be launched by the Ford Classic at Woburn on May 1, is the European Open sponsored by IBM, which will be played at Kingswood, Surrey, on September 4 to 7 with the prize money increase from £25,000 to £35,000.

VOLLEYBALL Players see red over setter's disappearing act

By Paul Harrison

The English road into Europe turned into a Bulgarian cul-de-sac last weekend, when Capital City Spikers and Hillingdon Ladies were comprehensively knocked out of the European Champions' Cup by the greater strength of CSKA Sofia and Levski Spartak. Spikers and Hillingdon did not manage to win a set over the two legs.

In the English League, sponsored by Britvic, the first division leaders, Speedwell Rucanor, went down to Redwood Lodge, from Bristol, in five sets. Redwood were disrupted midway through the match when their setter Gary Jefferies had to leave to attend his firm's Christmas dinner. He had paid for the tickets and did not want to waste them.

The reserve setter, Peter Phillips, stepped in. Redwood lost the fourth set but reorganised themselves to take the deciding set. Jefferies has been dropped for this weekend's match with Leeds and Phillips keeps his place. The reaction of the rest of the Redwood players to Jefferies' departure was "unprintable", said Keith Nicholls, their coach.

In Scotland's Royal Bank League, Finlades Sport had to postpone their home match against Whitburn in a local school hall because of a shortage of fuel as a result of the miners' strike.

FOOTBALL: VIOLENCE ON THE FIELD BY PLAYERS AND CROWD POSE PROBLEMS

Celtic await sentence of UEFA

By Peter Ball

Yesterday morning Celtic awoke facing the fact of their exit from European Cup competition. Not only from this season's European Cup Winners' Cup, which came from Wednesday's 1-0 second round defeat by and, on the night much superior Rapid Vienna side, but probably for several more years after the assaults on two Rapid players by men wearing Celtic favours.

Celtic can have no cause for complaints on the first count, their naive individualistic attacks making little impact, and their departure already seemed assured early in the second half when a supporter ran out at the Stretford end and launched himself at Feuer, the goal-keeper.

Feuer fell into the back of the net and it took five policemen to remove the struggling assailant. At the end of the game the goal scorer Paucit, the most talented forward on view, was allegedly kicked in the groin as he left the field.

The disciplinary committee of UEFA will meet on January 7 to decide on their action when they have studied the reports of Luigi Agnolli, of Italy, the referee, and Erki Porilla, the Finnish official observer, especially so as the game was being replayed after a bottle throwing incident at Parkhead in November, and they will almost certainly decide that condign punishment is called for and that Celtic, like Rangers, their Glasgow rivals, and Leeds United in the seventies, face a lengthy ban.

Rangers were banned for two years after their 1972 European Cup Winners' Cup final victory in Barcelona over Moscow Dynamo, after their supporters had invaded the pitch on several occasions, and Leeds were banned for five years in 1975 after their supporters had destroyed part of the stand at the Parc des Princes after their European Cup Final defeat by Bayern Munich.

UEFA have been accused of failing to respond adequately in such matters in recent years, and their piousness about behaviour over this game, in which they first fined Rapid for the players' indiscipline at Parkhead and then, on appeal, ordered the game to be replayed, did not help matters.

Celtic's case, however, may well lead them to revert back to their earlier policy of bans, even though neither Rangers nor Leeds are exactly comparable precedents. But while the numbers involved justified the commens of Desmond White,



Kept in Czech: Crooks is sandwiched by Micinec and Marcik of Bohemians, but Tottenham squeezed a draw in Prague to win their UEFA Cup tie 3-1 on aggregate

Sunshine team under a shadow

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Manchester United continue to display all the modern rules. Whereas other sides, and particularly those involved in Europe, are supposed to follow conventional paths and wrap their ambitions in caution, they go their own reckless and adventurous way whatever the circumstances. Considering the limitations of their defence, they have little choice.

Spectators are enchanted by their carefree approach. It did not matter that no alcohol was available at Tannadise Park on Wednesday night. They were the only fans to see the second leg of their third round UEFA Cup tie with Tottenham Hotspur, which they won 3-2 and by 5-4 on aggregate, but the possibilities were almost endless.

Manchester United's superiority was clear, except at a frightful age. Even Jim McLean, Dundee

United's manager, admitted that "the better side won" and yet once again they threatened to throw away their advantage by conceding two "soft" goals in both legs. If their hosts had not been so surprisingly generous they might not now be in the last eight.

No one, least of all the uncommitted, would want Manchester United's attitude to change. They are one of the few gleams of sunlight in an otherwise overcast sea of mediocrity. But Ron Atkinson, their manager, of not all of their numerous followers would feel more comfortable if some concrete was poured around their defensive foundations.

Atkinson, who offered Ipswich Town £500,000 for Butcher some two months ago, is well aware of the weakness. He knows too that unless he soon strengthens his rear guard,

his hopes of collecting either a continental or a domestic trophy will fall apart as predictably as his unsettled back four. If so, he may pay an expensive personal penalty.

It seemed appropriate that the squad should have stayed at St Andrew's and that their flight back to Manchester after the game should have been delayed. Because their defence is as full of holes as the famous golf course outside their hotel, they are progressing at a substantially slower rate than they should.

After winning the Anglo Scottish league, Manchester United can now push European thoughts to one side for three months and concentrate on the battle for the first division title. The need will be, Atkinson recalls that their two journeys to Hungary and the Netherlands earlier this season were both followed by heavy League defeats.

Spurs beat violent tendency

By Clive White

While UEFA will surely punish Celtic severely, following another example of British footballism during Wednesday's European competition, I doubt whether they will give much thought to the more shocking violence that was perpetrated on the field in Prague in the name of sport by the players of Bohemians. It would seem that UEFA attach greater importance to crowd violence, even attempted violence, than that committed by players—particularly if it is a British crowd. But the crime on the field must carry a greater stigma than the one on the terraces since it is the only one the clubs can realistically control.

A bottle thrown from the Czechoslovak crowd was the least of Tottenham Hotspur's worries as they attempted to avoid the next part of flying studs, not to mention fists, in their UEFA Cup third round tie with Bohemians. It was no way to try to play a game of football. If it were boxing, Bohemians would have been disqualified before the finish.

Mr Ponnert, the Belgian referee, performed quite bravely in the hostile environment but inevitably missed many of the worse crimes off the ball. The UEFA observer complained to him at half-time that the match was becoming too violent and Peter Shreeves, the Tottenham manager, who commented the referee afterwards, also visited his dressing room at half-time to protest that the match was becoming too violent and that he was receiving insufficient protection.

There was a limit to how many times Tottenham could turn the other cheek. But they remained admirably restrained, even the rugged Robertson, who took his light touch with great agility, and a moment's aberration cost him a second booking in this competition and suspension from the first leg of the quarter-final tie.

Deslauriers and Aramis take a long stride towards greatness

By Jenny MacArthur

The international show jumping championship which opened last night at Olympia gives the British public their first chance to watch the Canadian Mario Deslauriers on Aramis, one of the most exciting partnerships to emerge in show jumping during the last year.

The pair were catapulted into the limelight when they won the final of the Volvo World Cup in Gothenburg, in April. They went on to confirm that this was no fluke by finishing fourth in the individual competition in the Olympic Games. At 19 Deslauriers is the second youngest competitor at Olympia, the youngest being Gillian Greenwood, aged 18, the European junior champion.

Deslauriers, who comes from Bromont where his father Roger is the manager of the Olympic equestrian centre, admits that he has been fortunate in his home. The most striking feature about Aramis, a seven-year-old Hanoverian, is his size—he is more than 17 hands high and looks as if he could step over most of the fences in the arena. Deslauriers, who is competing in



Deslauriers: first visit

England for the first time, said "He may have a problem with the courses over here, because they are designed for horses with shorter strides."

Aramis was bought in a German auction three years ago and taken to Canada where Deslauriers spotted him and got together a syndicate of ten businessmen and women who paid £30,000 for him. In July this year, just before the

Olympics, they turned down an offer of \$750,000 (£425,000). He has looked forward to competing at Olympia both for its Christmas atmosphere and also for the chance to afford to compete against ten nations at one time. "In Canada there are usually just us and the United States," he said.

As the holder of the World Cup title he automatically qualifies for the final this year in April. This however was not taken into account in tomorrow's afternoon qualifying rounds. Indeed, he enters every class in the same spirit.

Gillian Greenwood, whose previous visit to Olympia have been as groom to her father, John, has a different attitude. Quashed to compete only in the afternoon classes she admits that she is here "for the experience" and does not expect to be in the winning frame. She will be competing against such riders as Harvey Smith, Malcolm Pryor and David Broome, all of whom are more than double her age.

Gillian Greenwood yesterday received the Vivian Batchelor Trophy for the best young rider of the year awarded by the British Equestrian Writers' Association.

From bridesmaid to bride in 20 minutes

By Colin McQuillan

Martine Le Moignan, the blondest left hander who has so often been the bridesmaid of British squash, last night broke through to snatch the national championship away from Alison Jones, the 1982 champion, winning 9-2, 9-2, 9-0 in just 20 minutes. It was the second fastest final in the competition, leaving championship organizers amazed and scrambling to find the main finalists. Geoff Williams and Bryan Beeson, well ahead of schedule. Only Sue Cogswell has been faster in the national final, beating Teresa Lawes in 13 minutes in 1977.

Squash, like any other competitive game, is about winning. But in modern professional sport there are more ways of exploiting a tournament than by merely stumping the cream. Lucy Soutter, who is the pocket dynamo from Gloucester, lost a fascinating five-game semi-final on Wednesday to Miss Le Moignan. By yesterday morning Miss Soutter was said to be in deep

Magri back in world title bout

Charlie Magri has a chance to regain the WBC flyweight title. Only the formalities remain to be completed after a meeting yesterday between Magri's manager, Terry Lawless, and the promoter, Gordon Warren, who announced earlier this week that he had come to an agreement with reigning champion, Sor Chulalada of Thailand, to bring his title to London for a sale on excess of £250,000. The bout is scheduled for the Alexandra Pavilion on February 20.

It will be the first voluntary business deal involving Warren and one of Lawless's fighters. The only condition to be fulfilled before Magri signs is that Warren must produce the champion's signature on the contract within 21 days.

Lawless said yesterday he had told Mike Barrett, with whom he has a contractual arrangement, that Magri would fight Chulalada for whichever promoter came up first with the champion's agreement. Warren accepted this, according to his statement at the beginning of the week.

The size of the offer which Magri has accepted is not being disclosed, although Warren has already said that it will be more than Magri earned for his first world title fight (£25,000) in March 1983, when he took the crown from Elioenc Mercedes. He lost the title six months later.

Opening the way for more English-qualified players

Minor Counties sides will not be allowed to include players not qualified for England in either the United Friendly Insurance championship or the English Estates trophy from the beginning of the 1984 season. It was decided at the Minor Counties Cricket Association (MCCA) annual meeting at Lord's yesterday.

In 1984 the leading players in the United Friendly Insurance championship both came from Pakistan. The top batsman was Mudassar Nazar with an average of over 91; the leading bowler Pariz Mir with 59 wickets at 12.68. Mir also scored over 500 runs.

Mr August explained that overseas cricketers are normally signed on a one-season contract and paid on a match basis and it was considered essential to give players and counties adequate notice of the change.

Test report, page 29

Real miracle of return to the past

Madrid (Reuters) — The Spanish Press yesterday echoed the praise of Real Madrid, 6-1 winners over Anderlecht of Brussels, in the UEFA Cup third round second leg. The tone was set by a headline in *As*, the sports daily: "Much more than a miracle."

Several newspapers were reminded of the 1950s, when such wins were more commonplace. "Last night (the Real fan) entered a time tunnel, going back many years to the most glorious days of the Real Madrid who won five (European) Cups," the daily, *El Pais*, said.

Madrid dailies were pleased with the prospect of a return to the glory of the 1950s, when such wins were more commonplace. "Last night (the Real fan) entered a time tunnel, going back many years to the most glorious days of the Real Madrid who won five (European) Cups," the daily, *El Pais*, said.

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Brady: penalty decider

Per Hansen, who scored the Belgians' only goal, was more succinct. "I was without doubt the best team I have played against in the whole of my life."

A penalty by Liam Brady in the 78th minute gave Internazionale Milan a 1-0 victory over Hamburg to secure a place in the quarter-finals. Hamburg had won the first

leg match 2-1 but Inter went through on away goals.

Brussels (AFP) — Five Belgian players have admitted accepting secret tax-free payments during the 1982 World Cup in Spain or the European Championship in France in June this year, investigations revealed yesterday.

Wilfried van Moere, Eric Gerets, Maurice Deschamps, Francois van der Elst and Theo Custers reportedly concealed some of their bonus payments from tax authorities.

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Barnet forced to sell in order to survive

Non-League football by Paul Newman

Barnet are having to cut back on their coaching staff and sell players in order to survive. The Gola transfer club were forced to part company with their star, Keith Wright, whose coach, Chris Hewitt, their physiotherapist, and several of their best players are on the move.

John Phillips, the goalkeeper, has been sold to Brentford for £5,000 and a fee of £3,000 has been agreed with Enfield for John Docker, a midfielder player. Nicky Evans, a forward, turned down a £4,000 move to Nuneaton Borough, but Ian Ferguson, another midfielder player, seems certain to go, although Barnet recently rejected a £10,000 offer for him from a first division club. The first team squad is already down to 15 and Barnet will not be signing any replacements.

Barry Fry, Barnet's manager, said yesterday: "We owe substantial sums to the Inland Revenue and a number of other people. The transfer fees are being used immediately to pay off debts and reduce our overdraft. The board haven't specifically told me to sell players, because they know I'll do whatever is necessary for us to survive."

Most of Barnet's problems have been caused by the seven months' closure of their clubhouse bar earlier this year because of legal dispute with a brewery. "We had to make a substantial out of court settlement and have been in trouble ever since," Fry said. "But if we can survive the next couple of months the bar is now making money, our gates are up this season and we are also doing well on the commercial side."

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Thorne lodges complaint about table

Cliff Thorne and Willie Thorne

scrambled an unconvincing 5-3 victory over Kirk Stevens and John Virgo in Northampton yesterday to move into the semi-finals of the tournament.

Thorne, in particular, was far from pleased with the quality of the table on which the match was played, and laid a lot of the blame for his defeat on the quality of the green baize. "Never before have I felt the need to make an official complaint about the state of a table on which I have had to play a major tournament," he said. "But I certainly have this time."

TENNIS: Johan Kriek beat Scott Davis, of the United States, in straight sets yesterday to gain a place in next month's Grand Prix Masters tournament in New York. Kriek, who won 6-1, 6-4, needed to reach only the quarter-finals of the New South Wales Open to be sure of entering.

RUGBY UNION: Several members of the Lancashire county schools committee will walk out in support of Ray French during next month's committee meeting, according to John Dewhurst, of Rossall School, Fleetwood, secretary of the committee. French has been banned, with no written confirmation or explanation, from taking his seat.

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Platt in tears as he misses Under-21 game

By Keith Macklin

One of the quickest appeals committees on record assembled hastily at Leeds yesterday to consider the two-match suspension imposed minutes earlier on the young St Helens forward, Andy Platt. It was quickly put together because of Sunday's Under-21 international in France.

Platt was found guilty of biting despite a letter clearing him from the Bradford Northern forward, Alan Rathbone, the other player involved in the incident.

A dejected Platt left the hearing in tears. His place will now be taken by Dannatt, the Hull forward.

The British Amateur Rugby League Association has criticized exclusion of amateur clubs from the sport's main competition this season. The Rugby League Council decided last week not to invite amateur teams to compete in the Challenge Cup.

A statement from BARLA said the decision had been received with "disappointment" but was "not only by the officials, but by rugby league enthusiasts throughout the game."

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Hollinshead colt can help to end gloomy spell for O'Neill

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Out Of The Gloom should prove a singularly well-named winner of the 2½ mile Hollinshead Hurdle at Doncaster this afternoon. A winning ride on Reg. Hollinshead's three-year-old would be a welcome shot in the arm for John O'Neill, who has no reason to remember this season with affection so far, having first dislocated his hip at Chesham in October and then broken an arm at Wetherby four weeks later.

A decent horse on the flat - he won the Melrose Handicap at York's Ebor meeting in August - Out Of The Gloom made a pleasing debut under National Hunt rules when he finished third in the Jameses at Ascot last month.

Being such an out-and-out stayer on the flat, he should relish today's distance of 2½ miles and he is preferred to the recent Wetherby winner, Noholmud, Quiet Fall and John Franco's mount, Wascen.

Francome's long journey north from Lambourn should not go unrewarded, however, as he appears to have an excellent chance of winning the Sea Pigeon Handicap Hurdle on Rhythmic Pastimes, especially now that Peter Easterby has decided to run Comedy Fair instead of the much-improved Jobkade.

Far Bridge, who has defeated Little Bay twice over two miles at Sandown this season, invariably gives the impression that the would-be even more effective when racing over 2½ miles - the distance of today's Red Alligator Handicap Chase.

He is preferred to Jimmy Fitzgerald's 10-year-old Direct Line, who tends to spoil his chance with sloppy jumping. If Direct Line does let the side down again, his trainer and jockey should waste no time finding consolation with Zamandara, who is supposed to lead the Merryman Novices' Chase.

Zamandara might well have beaten Jockabel at Wetherby had she not made a mistake at the last fence. My nap was tired at the time and she should still fitter this time as that was only her second race after an absence of 2½ years.

At Warwick, Peter Scudamore should be on the mark with Connaught River, who can outclass his opponents in the first division of the Shirley Novices' Hurdle. He may also win the Upton Handicap Hurdle for his father, Michael, on An-go-look, who got to within a length of the useful Morning Line at Hereford.

Another father and son combination, John and Anthony Webber, can win the Stoneleigh Handicap Chase with Nickle Moppet.

After winning his first race of this season at Towcester, my selection was far from disgraced at Warwick when he was beaten a length by Ardent Spy.

Donald McCain, who sent out Red Rum for a record-breaking three wins and two seconds in the Grand National, has Aintree in mind for Kumbi, an easy winner of the Burnley Handicap Chase at Haydock Park yesterday.

McCain was bubbling with enthusiasm about Kumbi had taken over from Cottage Rhythm at the final fence of the 3½ miles to win by seven lengths.

McCain said: "I was running him previously over 2½ miles when the horse was crying for three. He'll now run in the Welsh National at Chepstow on Saturday week, have a good rest, and I'll bring him back in the spring for Grand National preparation, with a race here and there in between."

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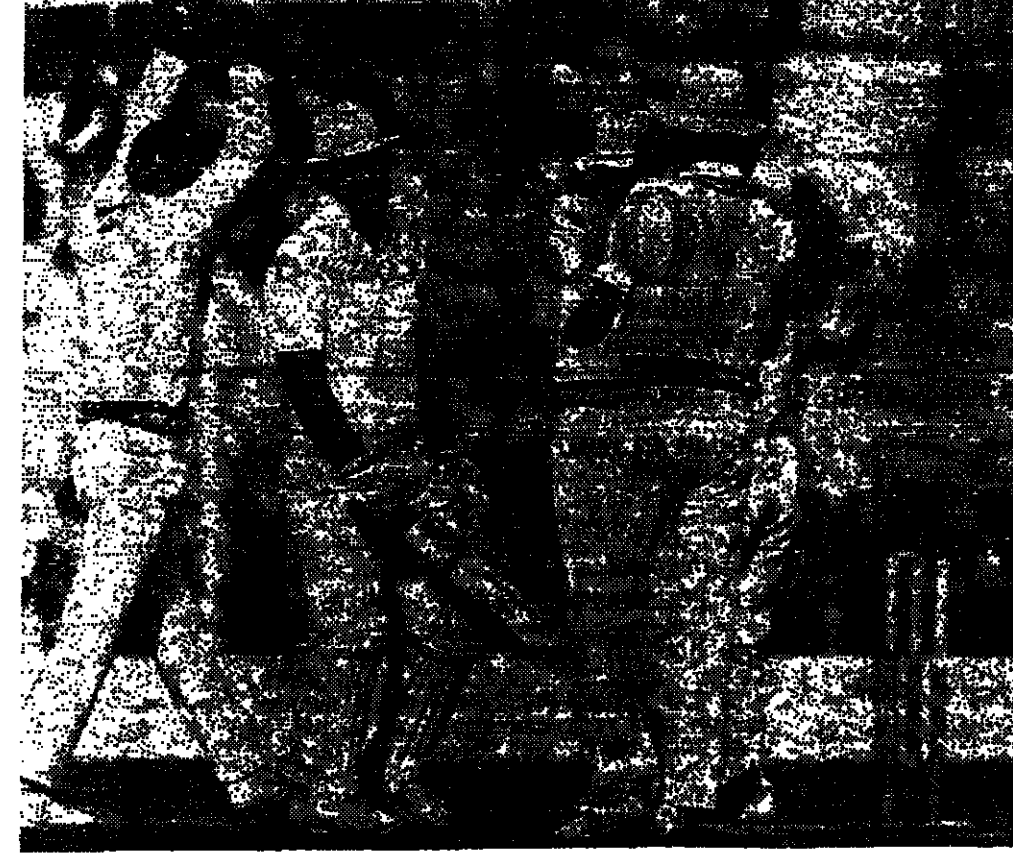
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Indians rejoicing, Gattling agonising as the ball spins back on to his wicket

Robinson gives England a chance to overtake India

From Richard Streeton, Delhi

England lost the wickets of Fowler and Gatting cheaply in the second Test here yesterday as they started their reply to India's first innings of 307. After tea, though, an obstinate third wicket stand between Robinson and Lamb developed and left the game delicately poised as the players took the rest day today. England were 107 for two wickets by the close after Robinson, with an unbeaten 53, enhanced his growing reputation.

There has still been no hint of unreliability in the pitch's behaviour, though its possible deterioration will haunt England in the next 48 hours. Having their opponents reeling at 140 for six, England might well rue their inability to bring India's innings to a more rapid end.

Robinson has battled through 46 overs with a confidence and maturity which has visibly improved almost innately by innings. Long before the end he was making room to score against Yadav and if Sivaramakrishnan, the leg spinner, was treated respectfully, the Nottinghamshire opening batsman did not seem to have problems against him. Lamb, concentrating after his run of low scores, pulled a loose ball early on from Sivaramakrishnan for four, but otherwise got his head down.

India's innings was prolonged until last evening's darkness by then a further 99 runs had been added to their overnight 203 for six wickets. Not often in Test cricket does it happen that a team's last four wickets more than double the score, but India now did it. Every member of this Indian side, though, has a first class century to his name.

Sivaramakrishnan quickly forced Ellison, who had bowled well, to strengthen his outside field placing. He and Yadav added 49, only two runs short of the Indian Test record against England. The morning period of play and afterwards must have been long for England who knew that every run conceded could come home to roost in the later stages.

Kirmani, Yadav, early in his stay, and Prabhakar, all rode their luck a little, but England also failed

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McCain eyes National again after Kumbi's clear victory

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Test over rate proposal

Adelaide, Australia (AFP) - The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) are to press for a minimum number of overs in a day's play for all Test matches when officials of Test playing nations meet in Australia for the "world championship" next year.

Fred Bennett, the ACB chairman, said yesterday: "We hope to host a meeting of those people to endeavour to reach agreement with them concerning over rates in Test matches."

"We will be submitting a very strong case that in all Test matches we have a minimum daily over rate of at least 50 overs."

The Australian's concern has been fuelled by the low over rate in their current Test series with West

Final chance for New Zealand

Karachi (Reuters) - with Abdul Qadir, the spin bowler, and Mudassar Nazar, the opening batsman, almost certainly out of action for Pakistan, New Zealand have been made an all-out effort in the series so far when play in the third and final Test match resumes here today. Qadir has a swollen instep and Mudassar a neck injury.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Daville

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Celebrity AM.**
- 6.30 **Breakfast** with Frank Bough and Nick Ross. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hour, and at 8.55 regional news, weather and traffic at 8.55, 9.15, 9.45 and 10.15; programme choice at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; Alan Titchmarsh's gardening advice at 7.30; plus Mike Smith's review of the pop music scene; Lynn Faulds Wood's consumer file; and Glynis Christian's best of Christmas bargains.
- 9.00 **Janet's Evening** with Janet. The 20th and last lesson: The Cat (r).
- 9.10 **Midsomer.** The final of the 12th series, presented by Magnus Magnusson on board HMS Hermes in Portsmouth. Jill Goodwin answers questions on the lives of Charles II and James II; Richard Job on the Great Eastern Railway 1862-1922; Kate Vernon-Parry on the life and work of Arthur Ransome (r); 9.45: **Cartoon**, 10.30 **Play** School.
- 12.30 **News Afternoon** with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. The weather details come from Ian McCaskill. 12.57 **Regional news** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 **Pebble Mill** at One includes Peter Seabrook's gardening advice, 1.45 **Little Misses** and the **Master Mind** (r). 2.00 **Day Out**. Gwyn Richards is in Tewkesbury on the junction of the river Avon and Severn in Gloucestershire, the site of the battle that ended the War of the Roses.
- 2.30 **Film: Obliging Young Lady** (1941) starring Edmund O'Brien and Eve Arden. Romantic comedy about a reporter and a girl who meets on a station platform. Directed by Richard Wallace. 3.45 **Regional news** (not London).
- 3.50 **Play School**, presented by Carol Leader. 4.10 **The Family**. 4.15 **Jackanory**. David Essex reads the first part of *The Cenci* War. 4.30 **Benji**, Zax and the Alien Planet.
- 4.50 **Harbort**. Tony Hart and Gabriella Bradshaw make pictures from print books. 5.15 **Crackjack** presented by Stu Francis. 5.58 **Weather**.
- 6.00 **News**.
- 6.30 **London Plus**.
- 6.55 **Cartoon**. Tom and Jerry.
- 7.00 **Blind Date**. Black. Las Vegas's blind date week consists of Jimmy Crichton, Bella Emborg, Sarah Greene, Mike Nolan, Duncan Norville and June Whitfield.
- 7.35 **What a Carry On**. A completion of the funnier scenes from the successful Carry On series of films.
- 8.05 **Bergerac**. Jersey's first major professional trial is threatened when Bergerac is forced to arrest one of the boxers. Starring John Nettles (r) (Ceebe).
- 9.00 **News** with Julia Somerville.
- 9.25 **Stars and Stripes**. Part two of Set Up in which an assassin has gunned down a pregnant woman. A man has surrendered to the police but nothing about him seems to check out (r).
- 10.15 **International Show Jumping**. David Vine introduces the Cognate Cupmaster's Cup, the Stakes, from the Grand Hill, Olympia. The commentators are Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hatley.
- 11.25 **James Last** in Scotland, introduced by Ken Bruce. Mr Last's Orchestra recorded at the Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh, and on Glenageary and St Andrews golf courses.
- 12.15 **Weather**.

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Alan Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.30 and 9.00; guests, Robert Hardy and Max Bygraves, at 8.45; exercises at 8.48 and 9.20; the day's anniversaries at 8.51; Jan Walsh with advice on Christmas gifts at 7.10 and 8.47; pop video at 7.54; Jani Barnett's postbag at 8.15; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.34; Christmas holiday breaks in England at 9.00.
- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **For Schools: Tomorrow's People**. 9.47 **How We Used to Live**. 10.09 **Ways with Words**. 10.28 **People and Politics**. Does Parliament have the final word? 10.48 **Who cares about local councils?** 11.10 **Playtime**.
- 11.25 **Let's Pretend** to the tale of The Hippo, the Peacock and the Glaziers. 11.40 **Monocart** 3.25 **Thames news headlines**. 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**. 4.00 **Rainbow**. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10. 4.20 **Wit Cwac Cwac**. Tales of a duck who is always in trouble. 4.25 **The Wind in the Willows**. 4.30 **Cartoon**. 4.35 **Cartoon**. 4.40 **Cartoon**. 4.45 **Cartoon**. 4.50 **Cartoon**. 4.55 **Cartoon**. 5.00 **Cartoon**. 5.05 **Cartoon**. 5.10 **Cartoon**. 5.15 **Cartoon**. 5.20 **Cartoon**. 5.25 **Cartoon**. 5.30 **Cartoon**. 5.35 **Cartoon**. 5.40 **Cartoon**. 5.45 **Cartoon**. 5.50 **Cartoon**. 5.55 **Cartoon**. 6.00 **Cartoon**. 6.05 **Cartoon**. 6.10 **Cartoon**. 6.15 **Cartoon**. 6.20 **Cartoon**. 6.25 **Cartoon**. 6.30 **Cartoon**. 6.35 **Cartoon**. 6.40 **Cartoon**. 6.45 **Cartoon**. 6.50 **Cartoon**. 6.55 **Cartoon**. 7.00 **Cartoon**. 7.05 **Cartoon**. 7.10 **Cartoon**. 7.15 **Cartoon**. 7.20 **Cartoon**. 7.25 **Cartoon**. 7.30 **Cartoon**. 7.35 **Cartoon**. 7.40 **Cartoon**. 7.45 **Cartoon**. 7.50 **Cartoon**. 7.55 **Cartoon**. 8.00 **Cartoon**. 8.05 **Cartoon**. 8.10 **Cartoon**. 8.15 **Cartoon**. 8.20 **Cartoon**. 8.25 **Cartoon**. 8.30 **Cartoon**. 8.35 **Cartoon**. 8.40 **Cartoon**. 8.45 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